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LUCIE CATCHES MIKA'S EYE

An Ashford fashion designer has just added the finishing touches to costumes for the pop star Mika. Lucie Ashworth, from Willesborough, runs Lady Lucie, a quirky fetish and glamour-inspired clothing label which provides eye-catching attire for circus performers, musicians and performance artists. The 26-year-old's most high-profile commission to date was designing bespoke costumes for Mika's backing band.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL STORY

■ BY ED HILL

THE father of Rachel Cheesewright, killed in a collision with a police car in 2005, says he will take the case to the House of Lords after a Court of Appeal ruled his daughter was partly responsible for the crash.

Miss Cheesewright was killed when her Ford Fiesta was hit by a patrol car driven by PC William Purse travelling at more than 90mph.

Last year judge Jonathon Simpkins ruled at Canterbury County Court the police had been 100 per cent responsible for the death of the 29-year-old mother.

But now a panel of three judges at the High Court in London has overturned the decision saying Miss Cheesewright was 60 per cent to blame for the accident.

Rachel's father Tony Cheesewright said: "This was a death that should not and did not need to happen. My daughter would be alive today had the police driver PC Purse acted responsibly."

"Instead PC Purse chose to give the new police recruit in the passenger seat of his vehicle a macho thrill ride, driving at a reckless speed, straddling the centre line and forcing an oncoming independent witness to take evasive action by driving her car into a ditch, before he ploughed into Rachel's vehicle and cut it in half."

On the night of the accident – October 22 – Miss Cheesewright had just left the Bonny Cravat pub in Woodchurch where she worked as a barmaid.

As she turned onto the A28 her Ford Fiesta was hit by the police patrol car, splitting it in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Artist Elena Priestley is sketching visitors to the Neville Pundole Gallery, Folkestone. Search 'artist'



2 St Anselm's Catholic School in Canterbury and the young science detectives. Search 'murder'



3 Chatham Historic Dockyard played host to National Armed Forces Day event on Saturday. Search 'armed'

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Church will be transformed in to arts centre

■ BY ED HILL

ASHFORD will soon have a dedicated venue hosting theatre, music and dance with work starting on St Mary's Church community arts centre in January.

Last week the council's executive committee heard how progress for the project was going from head of cultural services Mark Carty.

The church is already used for musical concerts and the occasional art exhibition, but the transformation to an arts venue will see a dedicated programme of music, theatre and art being staged at the site with the help of a long-term promoter.

Ashford council has provided £100,000 for new lighting and sound equipment and a further £1.2 million has been secured from central government as part of the town's funding as a 'growth area'.

Conservative Cllr William Howard said it would revitalise the church and was an exciting step forward, opening an historic building for public use that would bring many benefits in addition to the arts.

The church will still retain its function as a religious building with regular religious services continuing to be held there.

The church council will also have responsibility for running the venue with support from Ashford council.

At the meeting, opposition councillors expressed concerns that the project could change the character of the building and attract anti-social behaviour.

Independent councillor Peter Davison also said the town's growth plans meant a standalone arts centre should be provided for residents.

But Cllr Howard said: "We are talking about using the nave for a



CULTURAL MAKEOVER: St Mary's Church

range of religious, arts and community activities, not rock concerts."

Cllr Davison also had concerns about the removal of pews.

He said: "They are part of the history produced by local craftsmen from local wood."

Cllr Gerry Clarkson, portfolio holder for cultural services, said that all the historic pews were in the gallery of St Mary's and would be retained untouched.

Mr Carty also assured councillors the work in converting the church would be done with care.

He said: "We accept churches are sensitive buildings. But St Mary's has been adapted 24 times over the years; it is a living building that is going forward to adapt to meet the needs of the community it serves."

It has long been recognised that Ashford lacks performance spaces particularly when it comes to the fields of theatre and dance. Groups have campaigned for a dedicated venue with little success. The conversion of part of St Mary's is seen as an attempt by the council to address the issue.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Council must face up to staff's job concerns

CONCERNED councillors want the authority to live up to the town slogan "best placed to live and work" after employment shortcomings were pointed out by their own workforce.

Now a raft of measures is being introduced to improve communication and iron out inconsistencies in a bid to recruit and retain the best quality staff.

Members accepted recommendations laid out in a detailed report, plus a suggestion from Labour Cllr Brendan Naughton that they consider incentives to encourage more staff to set an example, such as using bicycles to travel to and from work.

Planning committee say yes to new route

A NEW road that will improve access to and from the station and town centre have been given the go-ahead by the town's planning committee.

Victoria Way will provide a new route south of Ashford town centre linking the International Station at Romney Marsh Road and the A28 at Great Chart.

Work is expected to begin in spring 2010 and finish the following spring.

The application now has to go before Kent County Council's planning committee in the next few months for final approval.

Emergency services are put to the test

MEDICAL staff at the William Harvey Hospital practiced an emergency drill on Friday and Saturday to check the cross border responsiveness to a major incident.

More than 1,000 members of the emergency services took part in the training which took a year to plan.

The scenario tested was a radiological explosion at a fictional college near Dover Castle, which involved a number of casualties that required decontamination and treatment.

The exercise also tested the command structure within each agency and their ability to work together.

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It's a new era of high speed commuter travel

First bullet train leaves Ashford

■ BY ED HILL

A PACKED bullet train from Ashford pulled into St Pancras a minute early on Monday heralding a new era in high speed rail service.

Commuters were keen to experience for themselves what the 140mph journey would mean for their daily trip to the capital, and the train did not disappoint, making the run in just 36 minutes.

The trains, which will also stop at Ebbsfleet, have been introduced nearly six months before the full service begins in December.

Platform five of Ashford International was packed with travellers eager to get a good seat on the Hitachi train that would be pulling into the platform at St Pancras 37 minutes later.

Mark Gabriel from Singleton said: "I think it is very exciting. I have seen the test runs going through the station. I'm purely trying to see if I can get back to and from work quicker."

"I decided that if I drop having a coffee and the croissant in the morning that will make up for the increase in fare."



ALL ABOARD: Passengers board the first superfast train service at Ashford going to King's Cross St Pancras

"I think that it will be really good for the town and it will mean house prices will soar."

The preview service will see three peak hour trains departing from Ashford in the morning and three returning from St Pancras in the evening with the last train arriving back at the town at 8.09pm. Another traveller from the town was not so sure if the service would benefit his journey to the capital.

Eloka Obiara said: "I'm waiting to see if working my way back to London Bridge after I have arrived will work out. I'm not entirely happy about the fact that it is a considerable increase in fare. I want to see if I will have a seat to sit in on the way back."

A single ticket to London will cost an extra £4.40 to St Pancras.

As this first service departed on time at 6.48am there was a sense that the service will revolutionise the daily journey to work, although there will be a period of adjustment.

Vince Lucas, commercial director from Southeastern Trains, said: "It is good to see so many people here for this first train."

"But what we really want to see is complete full trains when we begin the service in December."

For details of train times and ticket prices go to www.southeasternrailway.co.uk

PC was going too fast admit judges

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
two and killing her instantly.

Peter Cutler, from Harman and Harman Solicitors representing the family, said: "The judges said that Rachel's failure to look right a second time was a contributory factor to her death. For that minor omission they have attributed 60 per cent responsibility to Rachel."

The judges argued that if Miss Cheesewright had looked again she would never have pulled out in front of the police car, despite the fact it was emerging from a bend just before the junction.

However, the judges did acknowledge the police car was going too fast and that speed had been a factor that contributed to her death.

In the draft judgement they wrote: "I would hold that PC Purse's negligence driving at the speed found by the judge, without his siren sounding, was a contributory cause of the accident."

"Excessive speed can and did have immediate consequences."

The family feel that they have still won a victory because the police driver was considered partly to blame for the crash.

Mr Cutler said: "The 40 per cent apportionment of blame on the police is significant and will mean Rachel's daughter Charlotte will get some compensation."

The family now say they are considering taking the case to the House of Lords.

Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas from Kent Police said: "An inquest jury returned an accidental death verdict in January 2008, describing the collision as a 'tragic accident'."

"Kent Police's thoughts continue to be with Miss Cheesewright's family and everyone who was involved."



KILLED: Rachel

50 megabyte broadband has arrived

VIRGIN media is to roll out a 50 megabyte internet broadband service across the whole of the town.

The new network will allow customers to download an entire album in as little as 11 seconds, a TV show in around one minute and a high quality movie in three and a half minutes.

The increased capacity available with 50 megabytes also means several users can share the internet at the same time, whether it's browsing the web, playing on a games console, downloading music or using a laptop.

The town was chosen last year for trials of the 50Mb broadband services. The company recently announced that it has also chosen Ashford to carry out a trial of a 200 megabyte, one of the fastest in the world.

Jon James, executive director of broadband at Virgin Media, said: "We're delighted to launch our new ultrafast 50Mb service in Ashford. It will transform the online experience for individuals and families alike."

Virgin says that the basic package for the broadband service will be £35 a month.

Debt skyrockets as Citizens' Advice report record calls

RECESSION has brought a huge increase in debt across the borough.

And staff and volunteers at Ashford and Tenterden Citizens' Advice Bureau say they are struggling to keep pace with demand for its services.

Over the past three months they have seen a 70 per cent increase in financial problems.

Crisis

Briefing Ashford council last Thursday, manager Mick Fleming and chair of the trustees of the charity Mick Hubert said despite the vast increase in workload, with implications to the whole community they were responding swiftly and efficiently to the crisis.

They are expanding services, developing relationships with creditors and offering more outreach services in the rural areas.

But the group said reacting to the challenges needed more funding and more volunteers were needed.

■ BY ED HILL

Ashford CAB has served the town for 68 years. At their base in Norwood Street they have a staff of six plus 24 volunteer advisors.

More volunteers are needed but it will take time to ease the pressure as it takes 18 months to be fully trained.

Ashford council makes an annual grant of £111,000 which covers 75 per cent of core costs, the rest the charity has to raise in the community.

Additional funding is desperately needed to expand services and Mr Flemming appealed to councillors to do what they could to help the service.

He said: "Spread the message that we are a community resource that provides community success."

"We need cash, volunteers and trustees to help our work in these very challenging times delivering a much needed service."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Beatles tribute act to play deaf charity show

TOP fab four tribute act The Beatlez are performing a special charity show to raise funds for the county's deaf and hard of hearing charity Hi Kent.

The band has played at top celebrity parties including one for Liam Gallagher of Oasis. The show takes place at The Weald of Kent golf club, Headcorn on September 18 from 7.30pm until 11.30pm.

Tickets cost £28 including a meal. Call Hi Kent on 01622 691151.

Pupils to take up final Challenge in panathlon

DISABLED school children from the borough will compete in the finals of the county's first multi-sport Panathlon Challenge today.

More than 200 youngsters, from eight different school sport partnerships, took part in heats across Kent in April this year to secure a place in the final at the Malling School, in East Malling on Wednesday.

The scheme has been delivering Paralympic type sport events for the past ten years in London and Liverpool.

Beleagured Sellindge will organise fight-back

VILLAGERS in Sellindge concerned about future development plans will be holding a meeting at 7pm at the primary school tomorrow.

The village is currently objecting to proposals to build a waste recycling plant at the old Otterpool Quarry site as well as a suggested 2,500 space lorry park near Aldington. They also recently learned about plans for 1,100 houses in the area unveiled by Shepway council.

Singleton blazing two-wheeled trail to work

STAFF at the Singleton Environment centre recently led the way in going green when it comes to travelling to work.

As part of National Cycle Week they volunteered to make the journey to work by bike to show how easy it is to travel to the centre by pedal power. The centre also has cycle racks and shower facilities for those visiting it on two wheels.

For more information visit the Singleton Environment Centre or www.btcv.org/kent.

Pop stage is set for Lady Lucie designs

AN Ashford fashion designer has created outfits for the band backing high-pitched pop sensation Mika.

Lucie Ashworth, 26, from Willesborough runs label Lady Lucie, which focuses on raunchy clothing designed for the dance floor and theatre.

She specialises in using materials such as latex, silk and lace to create bespoke outfits for her clients.

Much of her work is influenced by the fetish scene but one of her latest projects has been to design costumes for the pop star Mika's all-girl backing band.

She said: "They gave me the colours that they wanted to use, which were pink and silver to match the stage props and other costumes that are used in the show."

The band came to her studio to be measured for the bespoke outfits before they went on tour.

She said "They loved the clothes they are quite like costumes from a circus and a bit

■ BY ED HILL

over the top. They have now taken them away and they will be used on tour over the next couple of months."

Miss Ashworth, whose love of clothing was inspired by her mother's job as a dress maker, says her style is particularly suitable for the stage.

She said: "My clothes do have a sense of performance about them but I also want them to be comfortable."

"When you go to college they always say don't design clothes for yourself, but that is actually what I do and I think it has worked out well."

Miss Ashworth recently finished a degree course at the Ashford School of Art and Design but even before she had graduated her designs were attracting attention from the music and fashion industries.

Projects that she has worked on include costumes for the circus, ballet and theatre. She told Yourashford she had just been working on costumes for a circus company performing at



SHOW ON THE ROAD: Ashford fashion designer Lucie Ashworth has created outfits for star Mika's (inset) tour

last weekend's Glastonbury Festival.

But Ms Ashworth, who has been described as a one woman creative army, says she is not cut out for the world of the catwalk.

She said: "I don't think that I will ever enter into the world of fashion because I don't like having to do things repetitively. I like having one-off big projects and making something unique."



ON YOUR BIKE: Ben White (left) and Sam Mercer preparing for tandem challenge

School pals to pedal for charity

AN intrepid quartet of former school pals planning a lads holiday have turned it into a marathon charity challenge.

Starting on July 19 at Land's End they plan to cycle the 550 miles from the further point south in England to the furthest point east, at the North Foreland near Margate in 10 days – on tandems.

Ben White, 22, a transport consultant with Ashford-based company Scott Wilson, said: "It started at a pub meeting when we decided we wanted an adventure but also to help a charity."

His mother had been a patient at the Pilgrims Hospice and he was moved by the care provided so half the proceeds of their sponsorship will be

donated to the charity with the rest to Kent Air Ambulance.

"Both have an impact on so many lives when people are in desperate need of help. The borrowed tandems idea was a brainwave inspired by the beer which may, or may not, turn out to be a good one as we have to carry all our camping equipment, but we wanted to attract attention to get support en-route."

He will be joined by Sam Mercer and brother's Dan and Joe Warner.

They can be sponsored individually by visiting www.justgiving.com or by calling Ben on 07772240772.



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'FLAWED': Millbank Centre project was set up to provide an alternative to places like Dover Immigration Centre (above)

Migrant project is slammed by Society report

A CHARITY has defended its role in a 'flawed' £1million pilot project set up to help failed asylum seekers and their families return to their homelands.

Migrant Helpline, which ran the Government-funded scheme at the Millbank centre near Kingsnorth, was criticised in the report by the Children's Society.

The highly critical report says the 12 month pilot, that ended in October last year was a "missed opportunity" and "flawed".

Roy Millard, deputy chief executive for the charity, said: "We were happy to play a part in developing a pilot that did not rely on the blunt instrument of imprisonment."

The scheme, which was co-run by the UK Border Agency, aimed to help 260 families but actually only dealt with 13, resulting in just one family returning to their country of origin.

Mr Millard said: "The pilot started to test things and provide useful information. Unfortunately that never really happened properly because not enough people went through it to test the model."

He said that simply focusing on the fact the project cost £1million, and only succeeded in helping one family leave the UK, was not looking at the whole picture.

Around 2,000 children, including many who have fled horrific situations, are locked up in immigration detention centres each year.

Mr Millard said: "These people have not committed a crime; they have only claimed

■ BY ED HILL

asylum and their claims were refused. The ill effects of being detained on mental and physical health, especially on children, are very well documented."

In its report the Children's Society found that the criteria for finding families was confused, referrals to the pilot were slow, and there was limited awareness of the pilot amongst immigration staff.

It also said some of the families referred were unsuitable.

Mr Millard said: "If the pilot had worked and had the numbers coming through we would have had much more humane, effective and economically efficient model."

He said keeping a family in detention costs an estimated £20,000 a year and the alternative offered at Millbank was about a quarter of that.

The report suggested there was a climate of fear at Millbank. One family had come straight from the controversial Yarl's Wood detention centre in Bedfordshire and were in an emotional state and distrustful of the authorities.

The Children's Society said it had carried out the report to provide an alternative to the UK Border Agency's assertion that it failed because families absconded.

Immigration minister Phil Woolas said that lessons learned from the project would be used to design a new pilot currently running in Glasgow.

Developers defer pay due to recession

THE recession is prompting public bodies to let developers off the hook by relaxing deadlines for community contributions.

A report has been published that monitors 106 agreements, deals which require developers to pay for infrastructure projects around the district.

Last year the council, along with other bodies such as Kent County Council and the Highways Agency, signed agreements worth almost £6m with developers in the Ashford area. However, the actual money collected amounted to just £635,018.

A children's play area in Godinton, the Singleton Environment Centre, and the Eureka Park bus service have all been paid for using money from 106 agreements.

But because of the current economic downturn many developments around the town have slowed and the council has agreed that at certain key sites such as the old Newtown railway works, developers can defer the payments until a later date.

The report says that there is often a time lag between the payments being made the money being released.

Before schemes can go ahead they are assessed by the monitoring committee as to whether they are suitable for receiving the funding.

Future projects likely to be paid for by the money include a new sports ground in at the Swan centre in Willesborough and a skate park in Singleton.

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Funeral for student Ben

THE funeral of Ben Neilson, the student who died after an attack in the town centre, will be held at Willesborough parish church today.

Mr Nielson grew up in Willesborough and was studying at Northumbria University. He had returned home to see friends and family in Ashford when he was attacked in the Lower High Street.

He died a week later in a London hospital from the serious head injuries sustained in the attack.

Northumbria University has invited his parents to Newcastle to pick up his degree which has been awarded to him posthumously.

His family have now set up a memorial fund in his name to raise funds for a lasting memorial to their son.

The funeral will start at 11am. To make a donation to the memorial fund visit www.bennneilsonmemorialfund.co.uk.

Driving up parking costs

CAR drivers making their way to the borough's town centres now face increased parking charges.

It now costs 80p to park for an hour in Ashford and 70p in Tenterden, an increase of 10p. Further time is paid for in five pence increments and the minimum charge will be 30p. The increased charges were introduced on Sunday.

Eighteen months have passed since the last increase in parking charges.

Season tickets and long-stay charges have also risen – see www.ashford.gov.uk/parking.

A28 speed limit change?

THE Joint Transportation Board has been discussing proposals to reduce the speed limit on the A28 to 40mph.

The plans would extend the speed limit from Great Chart through Bethersden and onto High Halden.

The intention to reduce speed limits in the area has been put forward by Kent Highways after requests from Bethersden Parish Council. The proposals will also include new verges, signs and marker posts.

Funding's been secured to implement the changes and the council's been asked to recommend they be introduced as soon as possible.

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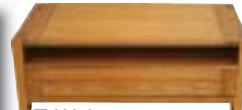
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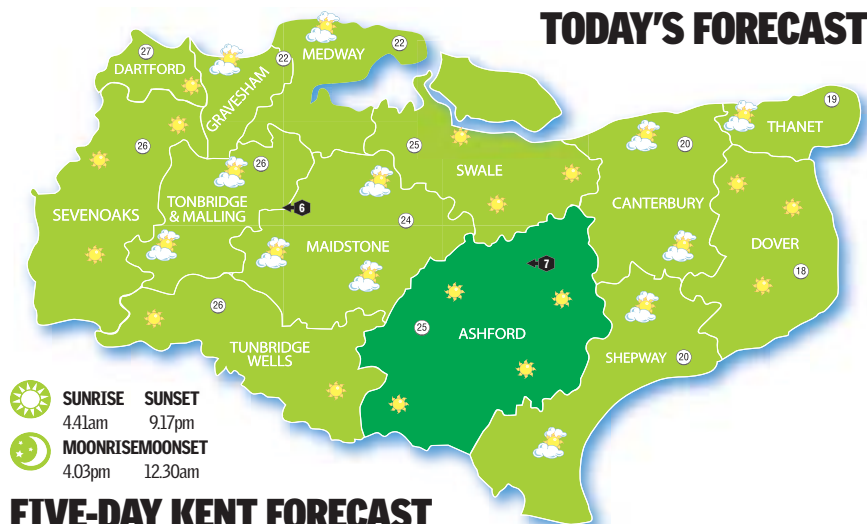
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Chatham	Saturday	11:31am	5.2m
	Sunday	12:24pm	5.4m
Dover	Saturday	9:54am	5.7m
	Sunday	10:44am	5.9m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:40am	6.3m
	Sunday	10:30am	6.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:24am	4.3m
	Sunday	11:14am	4.5m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:20am	5.1m
	Sunday	12:13pm	5.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:26am	4.7m
	Sunday	12:18pm	4.8m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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Athens	29°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	28°C	Paris	29°C
Beijing	33°C	Rome	25°C
Bombay	27°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	21°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	24°C	Tokyo	30°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	18°C
Hong Kong	32°C	Warsaw	28°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	8°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	25°C	25°C	26°C	24°C	22°C	Gravesend	26°C	26°C	27°C	26°C	23°C
Canterbury	21°C	23°C	24°C	24°C	23°C	Maidstone	26°C	25°C	26°C	25°C	23°C
Chatham	21°C	21°C	22°C	23°C	21°C	Ramsgate	21°C	23°C	24°C	24°C	23°C
Dartford	26°C	26°C	27°C	26°C	23°C	Rochester	21°C	21°C	22°C	23°C	21°C
Dover	20°C	21°C	23°C	23°C	21°C	Sevenoaks	25°C	25°C	26°C	24°C	22°C
Faversham	21°C	21°C	22°C	23°C	21°C	Sittingbourne	21°C	21°C	22°C	23°C	21°C
Folkestone	20°C	21°C	23°C	23°C	21°C	Tonbridge	26°C	26°C	27°C	25°C	23°C
Gillingham	21°C	21°C	22°C	23°C	21°C	Tun Wells	26°C	26°C	27°C	25°C	23°C

Showing the best of Ashford's businesses

BUSINESS leaders have been boosted by the success of the latest Chamber of Commerce annual exhibition.

And they say local companies are determined not to submit to recession depression.

The message from the trade fair was that Ashford is the place for business to thrive.

Opened by the Mayor Cllr John Holland, the Invicta Chamber of Commerce 23rd annual show at Ashford International Hotel last week once again proved to be the premier showcase for the cream of Kent business.

After touring the 100 exhibition stands the Mayor and other VIPs said were delighted by the lack of negative comments and the real will to survive and prosper.

Chamber chief executive Jo James, said: "There was a real buzz with an increased number of visitors to network with exhibitors determined to do business."

Activity

Guest speaker KCC cabinet member for regeneration Kevin Lynes, outlined efforts to support the Backing Kent Business campaign.

Currently, the county council spend £900 million a year and only 40 per cent of that goes to around 5,000 Kent firms. He pledged to make it easier for county companies to bid for contracts to see a rapid rise in the percentage.

With every corner of the hotel packed, there was plenty of activity as businesses spent eight hours explaining their offers.

Some left with unexpected orders and most had impressive lists of leads to follow up.

The range of goods and services on show was vast and varied, from award winning designers and computer system experts alongside transport specialists and security companies.

It all added up to another huge success for the Chamber, which is still desperate for a larger venue to show off all that the town has to offer.

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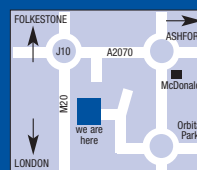
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QUESTION & ANSWER

MARK AND EMMA SCOTT



Q Can you tell us something about the work that the Salvation Army does?

A The Salvation Army is a Christian Church and registered charity with a strong connection to serving the community, at both a national and local level.

Here in Ashford, we have church services on a Sunday and activities throughout the week, ranging from parent and toddler groups to a drop-in lunch.

Q How did you first get involved?

A We both attended The Salvation Army as children and were greatly influenced by our parents. In 2005, however, we felt that God wanted us to be full time ministers of religion in The Salvation Army. We finished our two years of residential training in July last year and Ashford is our first appointment.

Q What is your relationship with Ashford? Did you know much about it before you came here?

A We didn't know much about Ashford before we were posted here, except for the Eurostar and the Designer Outlet!

Q What sort of feelings did you have before coming to the town as this was your first post?

A We experienced a real mix of feelings. We were excited to know where we would be living for the next few years and where our baby would be born, but also a little apprehensive

as we were entering a totally unknown situation. But people have been very kind and supportive as we settle into the area.

Q Do you think Ashford has any particular challenges which you will encounter in your work?

A One of the main challenges we can see is that as the town expands, the services and amenities will need to expand as well. This can result in extra economic pressures and in the current financial climate will be something to watch.

Q What do you think the wider public's view of The Salvation Army? Is it a stereotype that you find frustrating or have to work against?

A We are very blessed in The Salvation Army, as many people hold us in high regard. However, we do need to live up to this. There is also the stereotypical image of a Salvationist in a bonnet, with a drum or tuba, but in Ashford, people are aware that there is much more to our movement than this. These days, there is much more diversity in The Salvation Army.

Q You have just had your first child. How do you think this will affect your work with the church? How do you think The Salvation Army will affect her?

A Parenthood is a steep learning curve. Obviously in terms of time, our daughter has meant we have had to slow down a little. We can no longer both be at some Salvation

Army activities, particularly those in the evening. However, our daughter is such a blessing and we want her to know that above all else she is loved. Sometimes it can be difficult when we feel we are letting people down but ultimately our daughter is a gift from God. We want to honour him through the way we bring her up and hopefully be a good example to her.

Q What do you get out of being in the organisation?

A Where else would we get to meet so many people from so many places? It really is a privilege to spend time with people, and we are amazed sometimes at the people we meet. We learn so much from them and hope this will continue into the future.

Q How can other people get involved?

A We would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer at one of our activities or who would like to attend. They can call our centre on 01233 643480 or visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ashford.

Q If you had not got involved with the Salvation Army is there another career path you might have chosen?

A Mark – I would have loved to have been a footballer.

Emma – I would loved to have danced as a ballerina.

Reporter **Ed Hill** spoke to the Salvation Army officers who have recently moved to the town about the challenges of their new position and why there is more to the Salvation Army than bonnets and tubas

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Stour Music Festival celebrates early classical music over two weekends. Search 'music'.



Dancers perform a rumba at Strictly Bandstand event. Search 'Strictly'.



Comic Dave Lee hosts celebrity golf day to raise money for children in need. Search 'Lee'.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

Festival organisers' £1m ticket splashout

NEARLY half of all tickets for Kent's biggest music festival of the summer have been given away FREE with a flimsy celeb-backed raincoat worth just £10.

Organisers behind the star-studded Hop Farm event in Paddock Wood next weekend stunned music fans earlier this week when the unbelievable offer of a pair of complimentary weekend passes, worth £250, was tacked onto sales of blue and grey designer 'Splashmacs' on a budget fashion website.

But they have denied claims the event was selling poorly – despite some fans who already snapped up tickets reacting furiously to news of the offer.

The 20,000-capacity event takes place next weekend with a big-hitting line-up including the likes of Paul Weller, The Fratellis, Editors and Echo and the Bunnymen.

A remarkable 6,000 weekend tickets – which normally sell for £125 each – have been promised to buyers who paid for a colourful bad weather cover worth less than a tenth of the ticket's value.

The MandMDirect site was flooded with so many customers on Tuesday trying to get their hands on the Splashmac, it sold out and switched the ticket offer to a luminous towel, worth £9.77.

A few hours later and 1,000 had gone, meaning another 2,000 people could snap-up Hop Farm passes. That's a total of 8,000 tickets given away as part of the promotion – or £1million's worth of potential sales.

The website reported that the closing date to claim tickets was June 29. All those taking advantage of the offer had to do was pay £16 for a camping permit.

Hop Farm Festival chiefs who pride themselves on their "no sponsors, no branding" approach have denied the extraordinary offer was merely a stunt to get rid of unwanted tickets.

EXCLUSIVE

BY GARETH DORRIAN

They claim the giveaway was a stroke of generosity by festival boss and famous promoter Vince Power and a drive to raise money for a good cause – but didn't prove the Hop Farm Festival was a flop which hard-up punters didn't want to attend.

All funds raised from the sale of three thousand £9.99 Splashmacs and 1,000 towels will go to the Teenage Cancer Trust charity.

Festival spokesman Ian Roberts said: "Vince Power is just an incredibly generous man. He has decided to give away tickets with every purchase of a Splashmac.

Sold out

"I don't think anyone will have a problem giving money to a reputable and worthy cause. Certainly we live in difficult times and music festivals are in a difficult position.

"But we are sure the Hop Farm Festival is an incredibly strong event with a fantastic line-up that people in Kent will really enjoy. A great weekend of top bands and entertainment is in store."

A customer service worked for the MandMDirect website admitted: "We've been inundated with calls about the Splashmac, it's an unbelievable offer. Some people have bought two or three of them, meaning they could have six tickets for the Hop Farm."

Some fans who have paid for tickets are furious. Emily Dorman, 23, from Maidstone, said she had struggled to raise the cash to buy a pair of tickets and couldn't believe the Splashmac offer.

She added: "I scrimped and saved to get these tickets and then I hear they're being dished out with a raincoat. It's not fair, to be honest. I just hope the festival is as good as they say it's going to be."



MAKING A SPLASH: Former Atomic Kitten singer Jenny Frost models a Splashmac

MandMDirect spokesman Ed Green told Kent on Saturday: "The Splashmacs have been designed and modelled by very famous people. We teamed up with the Hop Farm Festival to give people a brilliant chance to see some fantastic bands and raise money for charity at the same time.

"The Splashmacs sold out very very quickly, the pick-up has been phenomenal. There were only 3,000 of them. But we have ordered more to be delivered. We temporarily switched the project to the towels and all 1,000 sold out."

Vince Power has stated he intends the Hop Farm Festival to be a long-term project and one which would put Kent "on the map".



SNAP AWAY: Authorities say taking pictures of your children at sports day does not breach the Data Protection Act

Privacy watchdog gives thumbs up to sports day photos

PARENTS who take photographs of their children at sports days and school plays are acting completely within the law – a privacy watchdog has ruled.

Local authorities, including Kent County Council, have been told that mums and dads are allowed to take shots for the family album – and that it's no breach of the Data Protection Act.

Relatives wanting to take pictures at public events have often been told that they are breaking the rules.

But the Office of the Information Commissioner last week said this interpretation was simply wrong.

It ruled that any snap taken for the family photograph album would normally be acceptable. This guidance can be used to challenge any bans enforced by councils as many schools stage their annual sports days.

Guidance has been sent to education authorities across the country. It reads: "Fear of breaching the provisions of the Act should not be wrongly used to stop people taking photographs or videos which provide many with much pleasure.

"Where the act does apply, a common sense approach suggests that if the photographer asks for permission to take a photograph, this will usually be enough to ensure compliance."

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Guarantee

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Was £411
Now £304
- 760mm
Was £420
Now £311
- 800mm
Was £445
Now £329
- 900mm
Was £460
Now £339

HYDR8 Sliding Doors



8mm Glass
Lifetime
Guarantee

- 1000mm
Was £465
Now £344
- 1100mm
Was £485
Now £358
- 1200mm
Was £513
Now £380
- 1400mm
Was £543
Now £399

HYDR8 Quadrants



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Guarantee

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Now £469
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Egg-stremely good fun on the free-range farm

RACHEL MCATHY finds out more about the happy lives of egg-laying chickens

CAMPAIGNS for free-range egg production have swept across the nation, endorsed by celebrity chefs and supported by some of the country's biggest stores.

Now rearing your own chickens, for the freshest eggs around, has become one of the country's fastest growing hobbies, which is good news for one farmer.

Doug Wanstall runs Bank Farm in Aldington, near Ashford, and it is from here that he pioneered a local food distribution hub that now supplies Kent produce across the county and in London.

But much of his success is down to the work of an army of 30,000 free-range chickens.

With access to 100 acres of land, they live a carefree life – popping out around 178,500 eggs a week.

But it is the nation's love of our feathered friends that has boosted business the most.

"People seem to be more emotionally attached to their chickens than anything else, which is nice for us," he said. "It is quite bizarre."

Collecting the eggs follows an almost military procedure. The eggs are laid into nesting boxes and then roll down onto a conveyor belt before being examined, graded and boxed

ready for sale. But the trickiest job is getting every bird back to the roost at night.

"They get let out at 7am and we take it in turns to bring them in again at dusk," he said. "It's my turn at the moment to round them up, and it's not easy. It's often 10pm before the little darlings are ready to go to bed."

Programmes by celebrity chefs such as Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, who spearheaded a free-range chicken campaign, helped boost interest in Mr Wanstall's business. It also led to the BBC using Mr Wanstall for its egg needs.

Chickens that are free to roam get a much more varied and nutritious diet, whereas yolks from caged hens are often injected with artificial colours to give them the glow only grass can naturally give.

Despite more and more people rearing their own 'backyard' chickens, Mr Wanstall said business is good.

In fact, to keep up with demand, he has started supplying people with the chickens and the know-how to 'lay their own'.

"As long as they have a suitable amount of land, anyone can have chickens," he said. "There is nothing like getting eggs fresh every morning, you can't beat it."

"Although you have to be prepared for the chickens' fairly destructive nature when it comes to grass."



Even the reject eggs do not go unused and are donated to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, in return for hefty amounts of elephant dung for use as fertilizer.

Mr Wanstall's great-grandfather bought the farm, which has passed down through the generations, in 1918.

His father still works on the farm, as well as his uncle – it is truly a family business.

Since he took over, Mr Wanstall's dreams of getting local produce more readily available have become a reality. He now supplies

hospitals, schools, hotels, food stores and restaurants in Kent and London. He also buys products from local farmers and sells them on to a range of customers interested in local food.

Despite economic struggles earlier in the year, which ended his supplies to Asda stores in Kent, he still provides the supermarket with 20,000 eggs a month.

• **Mr Wanstall's eggs can be purchased online at www.foodforkent.co.uk – your one-stop shop for all your locally produced, and sourced food and drink.**



Win a luxury hamper of Kentish delights

YOU have until the end of July to be in with a chance of winning a luxury hamper of Kent food and drink.

To tie in with 'Hop to Your Local Shop' week, Produced in Kent is hoping to encourage people to make the most of their local farm shops and independent food retailers.

To be in with a chance of winning, you must supply the name of the village or town you live in and the nearest farm shop online at www.producedinkent.co.uk.

Julie Monkman, manager of Produced in Kent said: "We want to shout about the benefits and pleasures of shopping in your local farm shop or independent food retailer."

"Shopping locally is also a lot more fun and it's cheaper than the supermarket."

Research shows £10 spent locally is worth £25 to the local economy, as opposed to £10 spent in a supermarket, which is worth just £14 to the local economy.

The competition ends on July 31.

Plenty of places to buy local

THERE are a host of farmers' markets taking place across the county in the coming week.

On Tuesday, Hildenborough market runs from 9-11am, and Capel-le-Ferne will have stalls running from 10am-1pm.

Deal is holding its market on Wednesday, from 9am-noon.

On Thursday, the county is spoilt for choice with five market hosts. Shipbourne market will run from 9-11am, Whitfield from 9am-noon, Bexley Heath from 9am-3pm, Rolvenden from 10am-noon and Chartham from 2.30-5pm.

Again on Friday there are plenty of venues to choose from. At Bromley the stalls will run from 9am-5pm, Edenbridge from 9.30-11.30am, Challock from 1-4pm, Egerton from 2-4.30pm and Aylesham from 2-5pm.

See www.kentfarmersmarkets.org.uk for full listings.



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yourashfordschools

TV TIMES: Paul O'Grady
at last year's Aldington
Primary School fete



It's Paul on the fourth of July

CHAT show host Paul O'Grady is expected to open Aldington Primary School fete on Saturday.

The event is the biggest fundraiser in the school's calendar and in 2008 the fete – which was also opened by Mr O'Grady, who lives near the village – generated a record £2,959.

The July 4 fete will have an American Independence Day theme, with a marching band from the 305 (Ashford) Squadron Air Training Corps starting the programme at 2pm.

Older children have designed and will run USA-themed stalls, while the Swingtime Sweethearts, a 1940s wartime swing duo, who were runners-up in the Britain's Got Talent semi-finals, will entertain at the refreshments tent.

Joint chair of the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association, Sally Newall, admitted maintaining the momentum for raising school funds could prove difficult.

She said: "We have been extremely fortunate with the level of support for the past few years, helped a lot by Paul O'Grady's kindness in supporting his local school."

■ BY ED HILL

"People come in droves to see him start proceedings and he usually spends as long as he can joining in the fun."

"But we can take nothing for granted in a recession and the weather plays a big part, although we still posted record takings in 2007 despite heavy rain at the end."

Head teacher Sandra MacCourt praised the organisers' commitment, which has ensured she can offer facilities normal school funds could not provide.

She said: "It is reassuring that I can turn to an active Parents, Teachers and Friends Association to fund special projects, which have included sun shades for the quiet area of the playground, stage lighting and a projection system for the hall, plants and fruit trees for the school grounds and refurbishment of the school's weather station."

Tickets for the fete's popular draw are on sale at the school office. Please note that no dogs – except guide dogs – are allowed on the school grounds.

The school will also be holding an arts and music evening on July 10.

BREAK TIME

That's all in a good cause, folks!



ASHFORD School pupils from Pilgrims House took part in a fancy dress non-uniform day to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund.

After the success of dressing as superheroes last year, this time the children at the independent school took on the theme of cartoon characters. Outfits included

SpongeBob SquarePants, Darth Vader, Shaggy, Poison Ivy and Minnie Mouse.

Organisers say the students had a great day raising money for the worthy cause.

Leukaemia Research is the only charity in the UK dedicated exclusively to researching blood cancers and disorders including leukaemia, Hodgkin's and other lymphomas, and myeloma.

The charities fundraising chairman is currently the ex Labour party communication director Alistair Campbell.

For more information on Leukaemia Research Fund visit www.lrf.org.uk.

Eco school project

MERSHAM Primary School has signed up to be an eco aware school.

The project means children are encouraged to learn more about topics such as recycling and looking after trees and wildlife.

As part of World Environment Day children designed and built Scooby the junk robot to promote collecting litter and recycling.

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yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...



Speed workshop was slow to put the message across

IT'S not that often that I get the chance to spend a morning in a room with 18 other convicted criminals, but as a result of an incident with a London speed camera a few months back I found myself in Ealing attending a speed awareness workshop.

Quite frankly, it was an outrage that I was there in the first place. I was clocked doing 34mph in a 30 zone and as Ray, our cheerful lecturer for the day, told me: "You were unlucky that is the lowest speed you have to get to end up at one of these things."

As a first time marginal offender I was given two options. Pay the £60 fine and end up with three points or pay £95 for the chance to visit a London office block and listen to Ray for a couple of hours. The police would then consider the matter dealt with.

I've always been pretty smug about having a clean licence; it has been one of the few things in life I could point to as a sign of my obvious merits as a fine upstanding citizen, so I plumped for the trip to Ealing.

The first session was spent looking at a computer screen showing driving scenarios in which various hazards present themselves.

The film was shot from the driver's point of view. Whoever had taken out the motor that day was very lucky to have made it to work without killing the various cyclists, toddlers on scooters, mums, guide dogs and grannies all leaping off the kerb in front of them.

After being assessed by the computer it concluded that I was average at pretty well everything when it came to driving. Although it did tell me I needed to lower my cruising speed.

In the second session Ray discussed with the group how we should all be more aware of speed and the consequences of being fractionally over the limit in the event of an accident.

I had been warned beforehand that I was

likely to see graphic images of bodies torn apart in motoring accidents. Instead we all took part in a group discussion on why we sometimes go too fast. And this was my problem. Let's be honest, we were all there because we wanted to maintain our clean licence, not some desperate desire to learn about speed.

The least the organisers of these things could have done is shaken us out of our complacency. We deserve to be shocked and have a sleepless night because we have been confronted by the damage a car can do to a flimsy human body. I may have avoided getting the points, but avoiding the guilt if I ever killed someone because of my driving is a much harder dodge to pull off.

The only people who are really benefitting from this exercise are the company contracted to carry out these workshops.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gary Wright**, on 01303 817032, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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WIN £2,500 off a conservatory

IT'S the perfect way to improve your home – giving you extra space and flooding your living area with natural light.

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lored exactly to your needs – you might like to combine a Victorian conservatory with a sun lounge conservatory or perhaps two Victorian conservatories together? With the extra space available, you can use your Britelite conservatory for dual purposes, such as a sitting area or even to house that luxurious swimming pool you've always wanted!

Now we have teamed up with Britelite to offer six lucky winners the chance to win vouchers to spend at Britelite. The first prize is a £2,500 Britelite conservatory voucher.

Two second prize winners will each receive a £1,000 voucher and three third placed readers will collect vouchers worth £500.

To enter, simply answer the question below

and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Britelite Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is July 17, 2009.

Question: How many years of fame has Britelite chalked up?

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TALK TIME

TERRY DICKINSON

The naval veteran from Willesborough talked about his latest trip to Normandy on the 65 anniversary of D-Day



What was the journey like this time?

We were taken by the British Legion who looked after us very well. The trip has been paid for by the National Lottery. It's good that the money was used for something like this. We first went to the service that was held at Bayeux with all the dignitaries which was very impressive. I also got the chance to speak to Prince Charles afterwards who spent a long time talking to all the veterans. I managed to get a photo of myself next to him. I said: "I've got one of me and your dad so I better have one with you as well."

What happened while you were there?

I went back to a house on the beach that I had not seen for 65 years. When we were there on D-Day, it had been full of German machine gunners. Now the Canadian veterans use it as their headquarters whenever they come over for the celebrations.

I also met an ex-marine officer who had been next to me in another landing craft on the day of the invasion, who I had never met before. I'm really glad we went it but it was hectic packing everything in. The French people are so good to us and always so glad to see us. It is strange really because many of them were killed as a result of the invasion.

We spent a long time trying to find a grave for someone whose husband had been killed in action so we could lay a wreath. We searched everywhere for it; in the end we found it in the graveyard of a French church. It was the only military grave there. In a way it was sad to see it all on its own.

YOUR LETTERS

Homes boom sparks fears for Sellindge

VILLAGERS have reacted angrily to plans to build 1,000 new houses in and around Sellindge which is already facing the prospect of a waste disposal plant and a lorry park.

Community spirit is alive and well

Two interesting village stories of a very different nature juxtaposed on your pages last week. It was heartening to read about how Mersham villagers have clubbed together to save their pub, and an inspiration to all of us to do more to keep small communities alive.

Less positive but still laudable was the way Sellindge villagers have united to fight the threat to their home from the various developments that could be imposed on the community.

I think both these stories show that under pressure, community spirit is still very much alive, and capable of delivering real results.

James Moore.
Hotfield

Bankers caused my great depression

The scandal over MPs allowances and expenses rightly



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Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourashford.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think.

And remember, www.yourashford.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Ashford and Tenterden as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourashford before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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provoked outrage amongst the voting public but the sums are small in comparison with the misuse of money committed by bankers.

Everyone seems to have forgotten how these people who ruined the economy kept on awarding

themselves huge sums in bonuses even as people's mortgages and savings collapsed.

The economy was supposed to be collapsing around us a few months ago and now we don't even hear such alarms and forecasts of doom as we were doing.

Has everyone forgotten the predictions of a new great depression - or was it all rubbish in the first place?

Maria Whiting
By email

Are pristine trains on track to ruin?

What an amazing picture on the front of Yourashford last week. The caption underneath was spot on - it looks uncannily like a model railway, so much so it's almost hard to believe those are real trains.

I'm sure the illusion is helped in no small part by the fact that everything, from the locomotives to the rails, are brand spanking new!

I wonder how long High Speed 1 will remain in such pristine condition?

Perhaps your paper could provide another aerial photo in six months time!

Albert Rawnsley
Ashford

Why cook up a storm over MP food claims?

Why is there such an outrage over the small items of food claimed by MPs as part of their expenses?

Where I work one of the few things allowed to be claimed back are small sums for breakfast if you have an early start or dinner for a late finish.

Paul Forbes
By email

SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE IN ASHFORD TOWN CENTRE

Ashford Jazz Festival

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Fri, 3 July - Jazz at The Elwick Club

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FOLK DAY

Saturday, 11th July

A great day of music & dance

10am to 4pm

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ASHFORD CARNIVAL 2009

Sunday, 12th July

Commencing Stanhope ring road at 4pm - pick your vantage point as the carnival winds its way along Kingsnorth, Beaver and Elwick Roads to Town

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Writing a sentence about my disgust

I was disgusted to read about the brutal attack carried out by those two young thugs last week.

Apart from the viciousness and cowardliness of the attack, what I found most shocking were the sentences imposed.

I trust Swansborough's 'five year minimum' will turn out to be a lot longer.

He is obviously a serious threat to the public.

And as for Moore, in my opinion there is no doubt he seems to have got off lightly.

He might not have been the one carrying out the attack, but as the judge said, he knew exactly what was going on and prevented anyone from helping the victim.

Hugh Whitlock
Ashford

Ready for change from MP expenses

So let's draw a line under the MPs expenses scandal shall we. It's now getting very boring.

It was a very good piece of work by the Daily Telegraph to reveal the abuses that were going on, but now I think the story has reached its end and ran its course.

I do hope however that those members who feel tempted in the future to dig a moat or construct a duck island realise what will happen to them if anyone finds out.

John Reilly
By email

Costly trains taking wrong direction

While the numbers are very impressive for the high speed rail link, I can't help thinking it's more evidence we're moving in the wrong direction.

Why is the government investing billions in premium rail services, aimed at a few wealthy business commuters?

Surely it would make more sense to improve and extend standard lines and services for everyone? Or even, heaven forbid, drop the price of rail travel so the average person has a fighting chance of affording a ticket?

Spending vast amounts of money on the high speed link can only work to the detriment of standard

services, the very services the government should be looking to provide.

Keith Samson
By email

Trains are lifeline for small communities

The new high speed train is certainly going to make the journey from some Kent towns into London more convenient.

But I hope that we do not see the services which currently run, being phased out.

That would make many villages in the county virtually inaccessible.

Proper services linking small communities with towns and cities need to run alongside the express trains for everyone to benefit.

Robert Jones
By email

Tuning out from Toby Anstis' music tastes

Reading Yourlocal interview with new Heart FM DJ Toby Anstis did not fill me with confidence.

While I have fond memories of Toby and Otis on their children's show, I wonder how he will manage to differentiate his play list.

Come on Toby let's try to get some new stuff on the airwaves!

Michelle Richards
By email

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Still teaching world to sing

The New Seekers will be visiting Kent on their 40th-anniversary tour. **Neill Barston** talks to Paul Layton, the band's longest-serving member

NEW SEEKERS

Saturday, July 11
 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



THERE are few if any musicians who can claim their musical career gained a helping hand from the late, great Doors frontman Jim Morrison.

But so it was for former child actor Paul Layton, whose encounter with the iconic American singer left quite an impression on him during his early 20s.

"Jim interviewed me as the 'new boy' on his group's record label, Elektra. He was over in England doing some gigs at the Roundhouse in London which were great.

"I was a big fan of The Doors and he was a magnetic character, interviewing me with a crate of beer by his side!" said Paul, whose brief stint as a solo artist was not destined to meaningfully trouble the charts.

He could easily have returned to acting, having starred in a range of stage and screen projects including Judy Garland's final movie, *I Could Go On Singing*, and Dixon of Dock Green (co-incidentally marrying the great-niece of its star Jack Warner).

Yet his Jewish family was behind his chosen career path and Paul joined a revised line-up of the New Seekers, courtesy of Bee Gees producer Ossie Byrne, who had worked on one of his solo releases.

"When I applied to join the group I couldn't actually play bass, but like any actor I said that I could, so it was a case of me just asking people I knew to help me learn the tracks.

"They hadn't yet had any commercial success. I joined at the same time as Lyn Paul and we had some great times touring," revealed the Hertfordshire-based musician.

The group, who are on their 40th-anniversary tour, enjoyed a golden period in the early 70s, scoring several top-10 hits including *Beg*



Steal and Borrow, with which they represented Britain at the Eurovision Song Contest, and their most famous song, *I'd Like to Teach The World To Sing*, revised from the 'I'd like to Buy the World a Coke' TV advert.

It proved a huge No 1 hit and remains in the top-100-selling singles in the UK. Its influence has lingered, with rockers Oasis borrowing its simple yet jaunty melody for their album track *Shakermaker*.

They were reportedly forced to pay its writers \$500,000, to which Noel Gallagher commented that "the band just drinks Pepsi now".

These days, 62-year-old Paul has far more time to spend with his family, including his singer-songwriter daughter Lucy.

His other great passion is getting out on the golf course, which touring occasionally allows. But as the longest-serving member of the band, it's never far from his thoughts.

There been many changes in personnel down the years (including a split in the mid-70s), but they have survived far longer than many acts could ever hope for.

"Though our early days were great, there was a lot of pressure, so now we are just really enjoying ourselves for the 40th-anniversary tour.

"There are no problems of egos within the band and we're putting out a greatest-hits album on which we've recorded some new tracks along with some of the old material, which is something we've not done in a long time.

"The audiences have been very good to us and we enjoy meeting them all with signings at the end of the show, which we'll be doing down in Folkestone."

To book tickets for the New Seekers in Folkestone, either phone the box office on 0870 400089 or visit www.leascliffhall.org.uk.

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COUNTRYSIDE CELEBRATION

Saturday, July 4
Wye Nature Reserve

SOAK up the summer sun with a celebration of Kentish countryside at Wye National Nature Reserve.

The day's free festivities aim to promote preservation of our landscape.

As part of the Welcome to the Wildside project managed by Natural England and partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the festival offers a chance to appreciate this stunning nature reserve.

Activities will include hurdle making, painting or hazel sculpture, plus demonstrations of spoon-carving, and guided walks.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic and take in a selection of live music.

Stalls at the festival will include Kent Bat Group, Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre, Wye Rural Museum Trust, and the North Downs Way.

Parking will be limited, but a shuttle-bus service will run between Wye station and Wye NNR. The event runs from 11am until 4pm. For more information contact Emma Griffiths via email at wildside@naturalengland.org.uk or phone 03000 604765.



HOP FARM FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, July 4-5
The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood



The 'Modfather' Paul Weller will make a welcome return to the Garden of England as he headlines this year's Hop Farm Festival.

Last year, Neil Young, Supergrass and Rufus Wainwright put on stunning displays, which this year's stellar line-up will be hoping to match.

The two-day event on July 4-5 features appearances from a raft of household names including The Fratellis on Saturday, supported by Pigeon Detectives, The View, Florence and the Machine, Ash and Echo and the Bunnymen. Joining Mr Weller on Sunday are Editors, Doves, Super Furry Animals, The Twang, Mystery Jets and Ladyhawke.

There are also performances from British Sea Power, Scratch Perverts and 2ManyDJs.

One thing that marks it out as being a little bit special is that it's a corporate branding-free and no VIP area event which will doubtless ensure good vibes all-round. Day tickets are £65 or £125 for both days (which includes camping). Box office 0871 220 0260 or visit www.hopfarmfestival.com



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TAKE on a whole new perspective of Leeds Castle with the arrival of Segway tours through its magnificent grounds.

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They are ideal way of exploring gardens while taking the weight off your feet.

Once you've taken a short training session on the self-balancing Segway, riders are taken on an escorted tour courtesy of Southern Segway, which operates within strict safety guidelines that require the use of safety helmets.

Guides will show you around the castle grounds and the route takes in Peacock Alley, the Duckery and a water cascade which offers fine views towards the castle. You can then soak up the woodland views towards the Pilgrims way.

The Segway experience takes around 45 minutes and you must be at least 14 (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult). It costs £15 per person, though castle entry ticket is not required. Call 01622 765400 or visit www.southernsegway.com

ASHFORD LEISURE

Enjoy a hog roast and summer fete fun

THE Egerton Summer Fete takes place at the Millennium Hall and Recreation Ground on Saturday.

It starts at noon and ends at 5pm, come for a hog roast lunch, stay all day. There will be arena events, a grand parade, children's fancy dress competition, art exhibition, dog show, tug of war plus other stalls and refreshments. For programmes call 01233 756601.

Don't be shy - come and throw a coconut

WOODCHURCH village fete's attractions include the Rolling Horse, Frog in a Pond, face-painting, water-bomb catching, sand art, find a fossil, and the popular coconut shy and crockery smash.

Arena displays include a line-up of American classic cars and performances from the Ashford Judo Club, KGA Gymnastics and Feet Beats Dance School. Refreshments include a barbecue, beer tent, cake stall, and cream teas.

The fete is on Saturday, July 11.

Traditional music has a northern flavour

CELTIC folk act Jez Lowe and The Bad Pennies will bring traditional Northern songs to Norton Knatchbull school.

The group is backed by guitar, cittern, fiddle, fretless bass, keyboards and Northumbrian Pipes for the gig at Norton Knatchbull School Hall, Ashford on Friday, July 10.

Tickets are £5 to £12 from www.shivanova.com or the Ashford Tourist Information Centre on 01233 629165.

Shoppers treated to music and dance

ASHFORD will be buzzing to a wealth of traditional music and dance in the streets and County Square shopping centre for its folk day.

There will be a buskers' stage in Park Mall to register for your space, call 01233 664410. The free musical entertainment will run from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, July 11.

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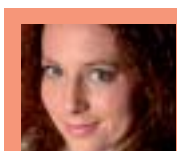
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WOMEN seeking men

TAKE ME FOR WHO I AM

Hi I'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, have brown eyes, love cosy nights in and cinema, looking to share a relationship. Box 447871

SINGLE DADS WELCOME

Love single mum, 23, cuddly and curvy, 5ft6, blonde and blue-eyed, like a drink, animals, reading, cinema, looking for honest, trustworthy and caring male. Box 451249

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU BABY

Caring and honest lady, 25, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for a sweet, caring and respectful non-smoking man, 25-35, for love, friendship and LTR. Box 879522

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & cars, seeks similar male, 56-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756

ME AND YOU

Medium build girl, 28, brown hair, green eyes, seeking honest guy who looks after number one, for lasting relationship. Box 451834

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTW white British male, 29-34, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 885431

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CUDDLY FEMALE

32, 5ft9, brown hair, curvy figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh and WLTW nice, kind gent. Box 349402

IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 892265

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship, Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, the cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

LOOKING FOR A LOVING CHAP

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have two kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446895

UNDERSTAND ME

Open, honest straight girl, 37, 5'6", slim, pale and cute, own home, searching for sensual, stronger, younger man, to help me relax and enjoy life. Box 451524

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding and WLTW honest, reliable man. Box 451311

PERHAPS PERHAPS

Fun, bubbly, outgoing blonde, late 30s, down-2-earth, with GSOH, searching for tall, genuine fella, for fun, friendship and more? Box 451385

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693



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SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

CALL ME

Happy but shy girl of 37, loves all the normal things in life, seeks a mature guy, hoping for something lasting and meaningful. Bexhill-on-Sea. Box 452422

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft5, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship/romance. Box 897983

SCOTTISH LASS

Maggie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years. I like pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 880434

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water sports, cinema, animals; WLTW fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107

A HEART FULL OF LOVE

Nice looking, genuine 41yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTW a genuine good natured white male, GSOH, for fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890

A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Easgoing blonde animal lover, 41, tactile, enjoy eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451079

BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, out going, fun loving, professional, looking for a white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-once-known female, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

ACTIVE TYPE

Lively, energetic and fun loving mum, 42, I'm 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, WLTW mixed race/black gent, to share good times with. Box 451819

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, GSOH, looking for man with no issues and GSOH who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

A WARM HEART AND GSOH

Lovely bubbly mum, 43, 5ft6, green eyes, dark hair, medium build, loves salsa dancing, new things, bowling, quiet nights in, looking for companionship and more. Box 880090

PROFESSIONAL

Fun bubbly sexy black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 451744

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, NS, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

ALONG THE SHORE

Recently divorced woman, 43, 5ft3, slim, hard-working, fun-loving, likes life, looking for a really nice and trustworthy guy for a relationship. Hastings Box 451469

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

YOUNG AT HEART

Young 46, fun-loving but also mature, serious female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent and full of fun. Box 884113

MAID MARIAN!

Hi, I'm Marian, petite, blonde, green eyes, 46, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship with. Box 447986

FANCY A FILM?

Hi, I'm Pam, 47, 5ft11, brown hair, hazel eyes, slimish, divorced, looking for a LTR with a nice and genuine man. No time-wasters please! Heathfield. Box 448626

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186

HAPPY TIMES

46yr old brunette, 5ft1, young-at-heart, likes clubbing, pubbing, spending time with my family, looking for a nice man to fall in love again with. Box 452122

2'S COMPANY

Seeking gent, 48-50ish. I'm a divorced woman in Fife, 47, work in nursing, GSOH, WLTW someone loving and faithful. I like meals out, theatre, arts, walks. Box 452503

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Box 444366

LOOK THIS WAY

Asian lady, 48, 5ft5, light brown hair, works full time, friendly, easygoing, WLTW lots of new friends, happily someone special. Box 878456

MAN AFTER MIDNIGHT

Outgoing lady, 48, 5ft4, short dark hair, hazel eyes, cuddly but curvy, looking to meet a nice man, to share good times with. Box 882022

SA YES!

Funny lady, 48, looking for tattooed hippy/biker/metal type to relieve the boredom. Must enjoy cat cuddling and have own chocolate because I never share! Box 878407

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with two teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 425952

BE MY GUY

Young 50s lady, slim, 5ft4, fair hair, a smoker, loves music, going out, cooking, gardening, seeking similar loving, caring, honest male. Box 449288

ARE YOU LOVING & CARING?

Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company Box 434089

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Box 471700

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

SHARE LIFE

Caring woman of 52, normal, down-to-earth, open minded and loves to give, looking for an understanding and caring female to enjoy films, walks and more. Box 452463

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME

Average female, 53, 5ft4, slim/med build, GSOH, enjoys most things in life, WLTW fun-loving man for friendship, maybe more. Box 878962

YOU DONT KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 443842

CUDDLY BUNDLE OF JOY

Loving caring homely lady, 54, honest, shy, likes gardening, long walks and more, looking for a fun-loving, passionate tactile man for nights out and more. Box 451967

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

A COMPANION FOR LIFE?

Blonde lady, 56, 5ft5, medium build, attractive, devoted mum, ready to start dating again and seeking male who loves travel, theatre, walks, cinema and more. Box 448449

IN STITCHES!

Kind lady, in my 50s, blonde, hazel eyes, curvy, I like cinema/theatre, walking, reading, cooking, gardening, sewing, meals out. WLTW similar gent. Maidstone. Box 451836

ANIMAL LOVER

Attractive lady, non-smoker, aged 57, GSOH, I enjoy eating in/out, seeing friends, theatre, animals and WLTW similar, non-smoking male. Box 452498

DIVORCED

Loving, kind, honest female, 58, 5ft5, interests include the countryside, old pubs, music, reading and baking. Looking for that special someone to enjoy life with. Box 878455

MUSIC TO MY EARS

Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for a slim male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH

Fun loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903560

THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE

59yr old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kind-spirited who loves animals, good for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143

CALL ME LOVE

Young at heart 53yr old woman, likes most things, looking for a genuine male, for friendship and more. Box 452662

LOTS OF TLC TO GIVE

Happy-go-lucky lady, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walking and holidays abroad, looking for a like-minded male for a relationship, maybe a LTR. Box 452897

Women seeking women

ANY OFFERS?

Curvy female, 26, 5ft9, blue eyes, likes reading, painting, walks and nights in/out, WLTW an honest, sincere and feminine female for a possible relationship. Box 452108

JUST A GIRL

Bubbly, feminine, attractive lady seeking the same! I'm slim, athletic, blonde hair/blue eyes. I'm 28 and WLTW similar female. Box 878997

FUN AND MAYBE MORE

Passionate female, 37, new to town, WLTW some passionate, genuine companions to socialise with, go out and have fun, then see what happens. Ashford area. Box 880564



MEN seeking women

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

Paul, 33, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes. I'm an honest, reliable and trustworthy guy. I like most sports and I'm looking for a soulmate Box 453042

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Seeking honest woman, who I can be myself with. I'm a genuine male, 34, GSOH and enjoy sports, sky diving, drinks out, swimming. Box 878986

FULL OF LIFE

Friendly Mike, 34, 6ft9, big build, clean shaven, GSOH, likes music, swimming, walks, looking for a lovely bubbly lady, 38-48, for a friendship. Box 452817

SENSE OF HUMOUR A MUST!

Big Mike here! I'm 35, 6ft8, blue eyes, GSOH, like to have a drink, a bit of drink or drink and I'm looking for a bubbly woman. Box 452560

CHARISMATIC AND ASIATIC

Professional male, 36, 5ft10n, romantic, attentive, GSOH, no ties, enjoys nights out/in, seeks,

yourashfordmusic

Modfather heads a stellar line-up at two-day festival



MODFATHER: Paul Weller will wrap up the festival

THE Hop Farm Festival is just three days away – and tickets are still available.

The Paddock Wood two-day, which kicks off on Saturday, boasts 50 of the top bands, DJs and solo artists from across the globe, and with a weekend ticket costing just £125, I make that £2.50 per artist.

That's £2.50 to watch the Modfather Paul Weller bring the main stage to a close on Sunday night.

For less than the price of a pint you could watch up-and-coming singer/songwriter Florence and the Machine on the opening day. British favourites The Fratellis, Pigeon Detectives, The View and Ash all join Florence on the Saturday line-up.

Sunday brings the Editors, Doves, Super Furry Animals and Mystery Jets to Kent.

Dance fans have also been catered for, with Etienne De Crecy, Alex Gopher and Scratch Perverts all taking to the decks.

The line-up across all three stages is so strong that it leaves Hop Farm ticket holders with a number of difficult decisions.

Late night Sunday could be spent in front of the main stage with Paul Weller, by the dance stage and 2ManyDJs or the third stage with British Sea Power.

Mid-afternoon Saturday sees Brit pop veterans Ash and breakthrough rock trio The Joy Formidable take to separate stages at the same time.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Too much choice.

The Hop Farm Festival stands alone in the overcrowded festival market, offering an event free from ticket registration, VIP areas, branding and sponsorship.

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON



NEWCOMERS: Rock trio The Joy Formidable

This year the festival offers a weekend experience of boutique camping, top-notch food and traditional ales.

The Hop Farm Festival takes place at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood on Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, July 5. Weekend tickets cost £125, with day tickets priced at £65.

For more information on this year's event visit www.hopfarmfestival.com

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'Fade Away' by My Last Mistake



Lucy Kitt performs on The Ether



KENT UNSIGNED CHART

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- 2 Lost in Colour - Stay Awake Tonight (Maidstone)
- 3 Shelta - Lets Talk (from Bexley)
- 4 Directions - Stop Drop And Roll (from Maidstone)
- 5 D-Finitive - Space (from Tenterden)

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- ▶ **The Liquidator PG**
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- ▶ **Awaydays 18**
Mon 6 - 6.50pm
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yourashfordstyle

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Life's a beach

**MATALAN**

Animal print kaftan, price £8

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Wide ethnic bangle, price £15

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Aviator sunglasses, price £2

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JANE NORMAN
 Leafy cover up, price £18



GEORGE AT ASDA
 Chunky beads, price £4

MARKS AND SPENCER
 Red spot bikini, price £20



NEW LOOK
 Sunglasses, price £8



ASHFORD SHOPPING

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PICK-UP one of the re-designed sun care products from Soleil Beauty which are exclusively available at Tesco.

The new summer beauty range combines advanced UV protection with formulas that leave a non-greasy feel and won't leave skin feeling sticky.

Soleil Beauty sun protection collection offers medium to high SPF defence. The products claim to provide a 12 hour moisturising effect and leave skin feeling nourished. Visit www.tesco.com

See Lily Allen and The Killers at France festival

MUSIC fans on a budget can head across the Channel this month to enjoy performances from acts such as Lily Allen and The Killers.

The Vieilles Charrues Festival, in Brittany, runs from July 16 until July 19.

To ensure you don't miss out, Norfolkline Ferries are offering £29 each way for a car and four people. Tickets for the festival cost 75 Euros for a three day pass. See www.norfolkline.com/ferry or www.vieillescharrues.asso.fr

Latest fashions ready to hit the catwalk

SHOPPERS at Fremlin Walk will be in for a treat this Saturday when models from the centre's stores showcase the summer essentials.

The Summer Party fashion show in Maidstone will see shops including House of Fraser, Oasis and Zara unveil their holiday styles during the free catwalk shows at 11.30am and 2pm.

Spectators will also be able to join in the show from 3pm and learn Fremlin Walk's own dance routine.

Click on to some great Boots summer savings

HUNDREDS of products are now down to half price in the Boots online summer sale.

Website shoppers can take advantage of the discounts on items in various departments including summer, pharmacy and health, fragrances, everyday essentials, mother and baby, men and gifts.

The offers are only on while stocks last. Brands in the sale include Braun, Nivea, The Sanctuary and Burberry. For more information visit www.boots.com

Keeper this date free for author book signing

INTERNATIONAL best selling science fiction author Robin Hobb will be making a trip to Bluewater this month during her visit to the UK.

The American author will be signing copies of her book Dragon Keeper, which is the first in her new Rain Wild Chronicles. Hobb will be at Waterstone's from 1.30pm on Thursday, July 9.

The Rain Wild Chronicles is published by HarperVoyager, and is now available in store, priced at £20.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

LOOKING FOR ERIC (15)



A suicidal postman receives spiritual guidance from famously-philosophical midfielder Eric Cantona in this quirky British film exploring the escape football offers fans in their hour of need.

YEAR ONE (12A)



Road movie through the Paleolithic era headlined by Jack Black and Michael Cera. An incompetent duo are banished from their caveman tribe and embark on a quest of self-discovery.

SUNSHINE CLEANING (15)



Two feuding sisters rediscover life amid the detritus of the deceased in this portrait of dysfunctional family life. The estranged siblings end up working together cleaning up crime scenes.

Shia's transformed into Hollywood's hottest star

BY SHEREEN LOW

SHIA LaBeouf has gone from jobbing child actor to international superstar almost as quickly as a car can morph into a robot.

He's now one of the hottest young actors in Hollywood and is commanding the column inches to go with it. In the weeks leading up to the release of *Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen*, the stories have been rife.

"I'm living a meaningless life," shouted one magazine headline. Another claimed, "I saw my parents have sex", crediting his sense of humour to his parents' hippy, carefree lifestyle. He's been labelled an alcoholic and called "resentful" and "foul-mouthed".

Yet when I speak to him, sitting in a posh London hotel, the 23-year-old is keeping that side of him, if it exists, firmly hidden. In fact, his lips are almost as tightly buttoned as the shirt he's wearing.

Shia says he takes the attention in his stride and even reveals the details of one article that made him laugh out loud: "Reading that I found my mum very attractive. That was hysterical," he says with a smile.

Life has changed out of all proportion for the LA-born actor since the release of *Transformers*, the highest-grossing film of 2007.

Despite acting since he was 12, the leading role in the blockbuster catapulted Shia into one of Tinseltown's hottest – and most talked-about – young stars.

It won him awards and a starring role in *Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull*, sparking speculation that he'll take over from Harrison Ford once he's done with the franchise.

The attention is sure to get even more



RIISING STAR: Shia LaBeouf has been catapulted into the spotlight thanks to the *Transformers* films

intense with the *Transformers* sequel, in which he reprises his role as plucky teenager Sam Witwicky, who gets caught in the robot battle between the Autobots and their Decepticon enemies.

"It's been great," he says. "My trailer was bigger this time! It's flattering, it's the best kind of review to be asked to do it again."

He adds: "It doesn't feel as crazy [this time]."

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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First time, it was figuring a lot of things out – we were flying by the seat of our pants.

"We didn't know what it would be like and this time we've battened down the hatches. We're just getting better at it."

He says: "These movies are adventurous to make, you know. It's not just an adventure to watch, but it's a real adventure to make."

It turned out to be quite a rough ride for Shia, who preferred to do a lot of his own stunts but suffered quite a few injuries during the making of the film.

"I broke my hand, I almost went blind, and sprained my knee. It was a rough shoot. The pace is the worst thing, just the non-stop shooting. But I feel good now."

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

ALAN CARR CHATTY MAN
Channel 4, 10pm, Sunday
HOTEL BABYLON
BBC One, 9pm, Friday

IT'S hardly a new format, but I have to hand it to Alan Carr – his new Channel 4 chat show is a winner.

It's perfect end of weekend stuff, before you doze off to sleep with the Monday morning blues looming.

Three shows in and all have been rather good so far.

Interviews with Bruce Forsyth, Samuel L Jackson, Heather Graham and girl-kisser Katy Perry have all been a hoot and only the Ivana Trump chat has stalled, though that wasn't the host's fault.

Her broken English didn't quite gel with the wonky-toothed comic's camp down-to-earth humour and made for uncomfortable viewing as she attempted to smile her way through the show before collecting her appearance fee.

Carr has that self-deprecating persona that never really loses its appeal.

Nor is he afraid to risk offending the guests he sits opposite, which is also a good thing and makes for a more exciting crop of interviews.

For my money he is much funnier than Jonathan Ross, even if he is back on form post Manuelgate.

Whereas Ross can come over as somewhat self-obsessed, perhaps not the best attribute for a talk show host, Carr seems genuinely interested in what his guests have to say and is a very funny bloke, which always helps.

His stand-up show Tooth Fairy, still occasionally repeated on E4, is one of those stand-out moments that convince you there is more to someone's talent than prattling about with hairy bloke Justin Lee Collins and ripping the latest crop of Big Brother hopefuls.



CHATTY BOX: Alan Carr's new Channel 4 talk show proves just what a talent he really is

Ratings have been good and deservedly so. It would be great if this were given a slightly earlier time slot for more people to enjoy, but would likely suffer if that happened.

Some of the more risqué humour would have to be toned down and that essence of naughtiness would have to be binned.

BBC One has once again wheeled out Hotel Babylon, which seems amazing because it is just so ruddy awful.

When a prime-time show relies on such heady names as Nigel Harman, Chris Bisson and page three luvvies Lucy Pinder and Michelle Marsh to carry it, the alarms bells must surely start to ring. The storylines are often preposterous and the dialogue nothing short of painful.

This is billed as a drama, which is odd as the proceedings are in no way dramatic or interesting for that matter.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
BE realistic when it comes to family. Nobody is going to change overnight. This is especially true of a forgetful female. Don't trust them with important duties or expensive items. This will probably make more work for you, but it's better than setting everybody up for a disappointment.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
YOU'RE getting mixed signals from an authority figure. The best way to avoid trouble is to get their instructions in writing and be sure to date them or you'll have to defend yourself against unfair accusations. A sympathetic friend helps you decompress after work.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
A RELATIONSHIP is showing signs of strain. The object of your affection needs to be more consistent. Being trifled with brings out the worst in you. Happily, there are some other romantic prospects on the horizon, so if this union doesn't last, you'll quickly start another.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
YOU'RE on an emotional rollercoaster, and it's not for the first time. Someone who is dear to your heart is driving you crazy with their behaviour. At first it was fun trying to make sense of their whims. Now, it's just exhausting. Maybe it's time to take a temporary break from each other.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
YOUR intuition is telling you there is something wrong with a relative or neighbour. You must be sure to press them if they keep insisting everything is fine. It's possible they're struggling with a serious problem. Offer to help with chores as a means to take some pressure off.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
BEWARE of falling under a guru's spell. Although their advice is seductive, it can pull you into a dark place. Be especially alert to any pleas for money. You have a better use for your hard-earned cash. A boss or authority figure may promise more than they can deliver.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
BE honest when it comes to your job. There may be a limited future with this position. Promises of raises and promotions that never come true are warning signs. Listen to a close friend's advice with regard to work prospects. Adopting some of their behaviour could benefit you.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
A COLLEAGUE could be saying one thing to your face and then gossiping behind your back. Be very careful what you tell them. It may be best to cut off all unnecessary contact. True, you have to work together, but that doesn't mean you need to be friendly.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
WORKING with a group will not be easy. You're better off retreating to somewhere quiet where you can focus. It's possible you will blurt out a friend's secret by accident. If this happens, be sure to tell them that you betrayed their confidence. It may take awhile to be forgiven, though.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
GO over bills with a fine-toothed comb as some erroneous charges could be made to your account. On the plus side, an impromptu trip allows you to travel to a glamorous locale. Be sure to take a smart evening outfit, as you never know who you're going to meet.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
SOMEONE may be playing fast and loose with your heart. Take this flirt's declarations with a huge dose of salt. If you have a family, be very vigilant about keeping your promises. If you have to make a choice between attending a work or family matter, pick the latter.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
YOU may not be able to afford items that were previously within reach. Practising restraint will help you avoid debt. This may not seem important now, but it will make a difference to your future. The fewer bills, the easier it will be to make a bold move toward your happiness.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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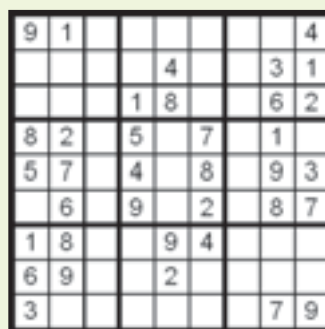
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No94

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

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MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

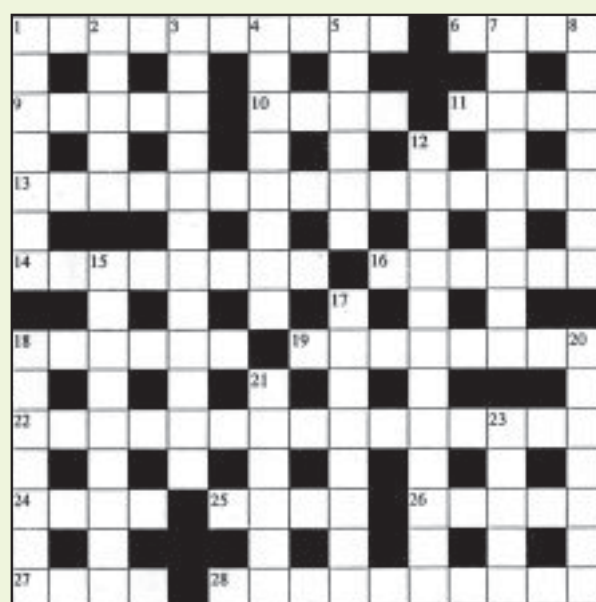
ACROSS

- 1 Ageist Nick stumbling whilst gliding swiftly (3-7)
- 6 Feet put back for a change (4)
- 9 Egg held by deputy speaker (5)
- 10 Promise a hot concoction (4)
- 11 Celebrity came from Costa Rica (4)
- 13 Comparatively easy to pick up (5,2,1,7)
- 14 Getting up late! (8)
- 16 I had nothing in frosty surroundings – that's stupidity (6)
- 18 Whitering part of fence (6)
- 19 That French demon bedevilling realm (8)
- 22 Getting a sense of achievement at work (3,12)
- 24 Get money from cows (4)
- 25 Second simpleton self-satisfied (4)
- 26 Style inside station I could see (5)
- 27 So you initially had a bean (4)
- 28 Animal might have sheer physical strength (5,5)

DOWN

- 1 Occupy fully when it is interminably complicated (7)
- 2 Monkey in game reserve some are watching closely (5)
- 3 One with impulse for taking new pale mink coat (12)
- 4 Number one rings three times (8)
- 5 Inform of tiny amendment (6)
- 7 Observe letters making up phrase (9)
- 8 Paint Ayr resort, left side first (7)
- 12 Pass scarf or tissue (12)
- 15 American rustic William found beneath mound (9)
- 17 Boisterous fun in bay at tea-party (8)
- 18 Nocturnal habits (7)
- 20 Can be held up by fellow with handcuff (7)
- 21 Frame last character I'm taking over sea in France (6)
- 23 In a sound part of target (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Rid of moisture (10)
- 6 Equitable (4)
- 9 Worse (anag.) (5)
- 10 Small shoot (4)
- 11 Peak (4)
- 13 American climbing-plant (8,7)
- 14 Unlawful (8)
- 16 Loosen (6)
- 18 Fitting (6)
- 19 Wife of Moses (OT) (8)
- 22 Imprisoned (5,4,3,3)
- 24 Mass of bread (4)
- 25 Thunder-god (4)
- 26 Neigh (anag.) (5)
- 27 Jerk (4)
- 28 Imaginary place (10)

DOWN

- 1 Disclaim (7)
- 2 Axeman (5)
- 3 Climbing-plant (7-5)
- 4 Debris (8)
- 5 Side of bacon (6)
- 7 Not liked (9)
- 8 Without duty (3-4)
- 12 Miser (5-7)
- 15 In the red (9)
- 17 Squabbled (8)
- 18 Blustery (7)
- 20 Yokel (7)
- 21 Call to attract attention (3-3)
- 23 Nairobi's country (5)

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HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No93

ACROSS: 1 Waver 4 Meantime 8 Belt-tightening 10 Trumpeter 11 Abyss 12 Reef 13 Meringue 17 Outlawry 18 Coup 22 Rased 24 Existence 25 Autobiographer 26 Absinthe 27 Argot **DOWN:** 1 Webster 2 Vol-au-vent 3 Retype 4 Attorney 6 Tanzania 7 Money 9 Esme 14 Groundhog 15 Tandoori 16 Free gift 17 Okra 19 Pierrot 20 Jingle 21 Strata 23 Squab

QUICK SOLUTION No94

ACROSS: 1 Dehumidify 6 Just 9 Sower 10 Twig 11 Apex 13 Virginia creeper 14 Winding 16 Unlikely 18 Squeaky 19 Zipper 22 Under lock and key 24 Leaf 25 Thor 26 Disavow 2 Hewer 3 Morning-glory 4 Detritus 5 Fitch 7 Unpopular 8 Tax-free 12 Penny-pinch 15 Overhewn 17 Bickered 18 Squally 20 Hayseed 21 Yoo-hoo 23 Kenya



Discover the wild west in Utah

■ BY MARGARET DAVIS

UTAH can be easily overlooked among the huge range of holiday destinations on offer in a country as vast as the United States.

Mention Salt Lake City to any Brit, and it will conjure up images of Mormons, weak beer and the 2002 Winter Olympics.

In fact, Utah has much more to offer than that, especially for holidaymakers wanting to escape the daily grind and shake off the cobwebs in a spectacular outdoor playground.

The western state is perhaps best known for skiing and winter sports, but remains a quite breathtaking rocky wilderness when there is no snow on the ground.

Yet even in the absence of snow, the area is a beautiful place to visit. In early October we were treated to the blazing reds and yellows of the autumn leaves – a perfect backdrop for pony trekking in the foothills nearby.

It was a fun way to see the countryside, and meant we could avoid crawling up the steep slopes ourselves. There could not have been a better remedy to soothe away the shop-soiled feeling of long-haul flights and jetlag.

This is the beginning of film-set style surroundings which leave visitors with a huge smile – and stopping every two minutes to take photos.

Dead Horse Point, half a mile from where the dramatic climax of *Thelma And Louise* was filmed, gives a jaw-dropping view, looking out over the Colorado River. Without the water, you could be forgiven for thinking you were on Mars.

But visitors do not just come to stand and stare. A wide range of outdoor activities are available throughout the year.

Moab, the small town where raft operator



EYE-CATCHING: The red, almost Martian, landscape of Utah leaves explorers stunned by their surroundings

Sheri Griffiths is based, attracts hordes of active types all through the summer and has a sprinkling of shops, bars and restaurants which cater for the crowds.

Once you've finished soaking up the atmosphere around Moab, a more relaxed river expedition awaits on the San Juan River, leaving from Bluff.

The archaeological trip will see your guide explain the spectacular geology of the surrounding area, with stops to see ancient paintings and ruins on the way.

However, both the boat trips come with a health warning: in the sun they would be fantastic (with all usual precautions in place),

but in autumnal rain it gets cold, so bring waterproofs and warm clothes to avoid grumpy faces.

The rafting in particular will get you completely, utterly and absolutely soaked, even through the splash suits provided.

Coming back to urban surroundings, Salt Lake City is a pleasant and nicely laid-out town, with chances for fine dining and a night out in a bar, as well as good shopping during the day.

So when you plan your next holiday, give Utah a chance – you'll come back fully refreshed and fired up with a new enthusiasm for the outdoors.

FACT FILE: UTAH

Time difference	GMT less 7 hours
State Capital	Salt Lake City
Language	American English
Population	2,736,424
Currency	US Dollar
Religion	Christian
Climate	Arid

History

Margaret was a guest of Utah Office of Tourism and she flew to Salt Lake City via Chicago with United Airlines.

United Vacations offers seven-night fly-drive visits to Utah this summer from £565, including return flights into Salt Lake City (via Chicago), free connecting flights into London from six regional UK airports, and seven days' fully-inclusive car rental (tax and car insurance included).

United Vacations also offers a 12-day pre-packaged fly-drive tour of the Canyons, via Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Colorado from £1,035, including return scheduled flights ex-London, into Las Vegas, all taxes and free connecting flights from six regional airports.

United Vacations reservations: 0844 499 2299 and www.unitedvacations.co.uk.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Now agents claim four buyers for each house

THERE are four house-hunters for every property for sale, according to estate agents who have analysed recent property trends.

Demand for property is rising faster than supply, with the number of house-hunters registered with estate agents increasing from 265 in April to 299 in May. But the average branch has fallen to 69 properties for sale in May, from 76 in April.

Gary Smith, president of the National Association of Estate Agents said: "NAEA members are showing that there are buyers a-plenty out there.

"More often than not these are also potential sellers who are at the beginning of the process – so there is bound to be a lag which creates a shortage of properties in the short term.

"With mortgage interest rates at historically low levels and prices now far more realistic than in previous years, home ownership in the UK seems to be set to lead the way out of the recession."

Buyers are still able to negotiate a discount, however, with the average selling price 6.3 per cent below the actual asking price.

The survey also found the number of first time buyers increased to 43 per cent in May – a significant increase on last month's 23 per cent.

How energy suppliers overcharge the poor

ENERGY firms may be in potential breach of EU rules by overcharging thousands of the county's poorest households.

That's the warning from the National Housing Federation as energy regulator Ofgem has been accused of failing millions of hard up families across Britain.

Members of the Federation say it is "an absolute disgrace" that less well off people should be penalised by big business.

The statement comes after it emerged several energy firms were allowed to overcharge prepay meter customers by £464m over a three-year period.

While they are allowed to charge higher prices to prepay customers to cover meter installation and maintenance costs, those charges need to be "cost reflective" otherwise suppliers risk being in breach of EU directives.

Ofgem is to finish consulting on the new regulations it hopes will stop energy firms from charging prepay customers more for their gas and electricity than the figure justified by the extra cost to the supplier of providing a meter.



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LIMITED: Although there's been an increase in enquiries, there are warnings these are only coming from the equity-rich side of the market, with specific properties in mind

Why more enquiries does NOT mean higher prices

■ BY NICK AMES

AVERAGE prices of new homes on the market have fallen for the first time in five months, according to a leading property company.

Despite several surveys suggesting house prices were set to rise during May, new sellers are still hesitant and the average asking price fell by 0.4 per cent over the last month to £226,436.

Rightmove has identified trends in property prices which are reflected in the desirability of what is on offer.

Miles Shipside, the company's commercial director, said: "It's a mistake to confuse the upturn in enquiries and sales with a return to a more normal market.

"As the best deals on property and mortgages are only open to the equity-rich, the new stock that agents are looking to attract has to match what these purchasers want to buy and can afford.

"Perennially popular areas with good schooling are in, while flats in large blocks and terraces requiring major works are out, meaning new sellers are having to adjust prices accordingly."

Although there has been a ten per cent rise in new sellers over the last three months, there is still a shortage of houses coming on to the market.

Rightmove also said that a north-south

divide is beginning to grow in housing prices.

The number of new sellers in the southern regions of the UK are down by 45.3 per cent on the same period in 2008, while the rest of England and Wales has seen only a 40.1 per cent fall.

A combination of lenders' risk bias towards southern deposit-rich buyers and less fresh saleable stock would therefore suggest a speedier price recovery in the South, Rightmove added.

But although equity-rich buyers are snapping up properties, a large sector of the market is still being sidelined.

Mr Shipside said: "Property deals appear within the grasp of cash-strapped first-time buyers, but every rise in fixed rates frustratingly nudges them a bit further out of reach."

Almost a quarter of mortgage applications denied

NEW figures from the Bank of England have revealed around 15,800 mortgage applications were turned down in May.

The report in lending found there were 67,000 mortgage applications for home purchases in May, but 23.55 per cent were turned down. However, since the start of the year acceptance rates have risen from a low in January, when three out of ten applications were turned down.

The number of applications from people

wanting to buy is also up, although there is a lack of supply of good properties coming onto the market.

The number of mortgage applications for house purchase is up 45.6 per cent since December.

The Bank of England report confirmed data from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, that while there is interest from buyers there are also frequent cases of remortgaging

The bank put the fall in remortgage lending

down to borrowers being happy to fall onto low standard variable rate mortgages at the end of fixed deals and falling house prices eating away at homeowners' equity.

This means they are unable to qualify for more competitive mortgage deals requiring lower loan-to-value levels.

The report also notes a "significant tightening in availability" for credit cards along with weak personal loan lending as lenders see greater risks of defaults on loans.

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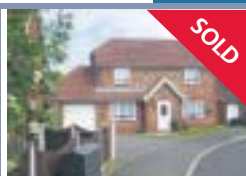
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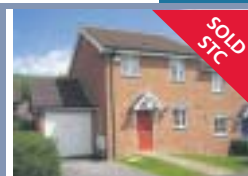
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Three bedroom. Double glazed conservatory. Landscaped rear garden.

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Smeeth £174,500

Three bedroom house, village location, garage en-bloc, refitted kitchen/diner

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Willesborough £149,995

Three bedroom, two reception rooms, garage, upstairs bathroom.

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Kennington £139,995

Extended 3 bedroom terrace. Lounge with garden room and study area.

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Kennington £138,950

Three bedroom end of terrace. Lounge dining room & conservatory.

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Ashford £129,995

Three bedroom end of terrace. Two reception rooms. No chain.

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Stanhope £119,995

Three bedroom. Ground floor w.c. Car port. Large bedrooms.

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KENNINGTON £329,995
Detached house. Study area, lounge with fireplace, kitchen/ breakfast room , dining room, 3 double bedrooms, master with an en-suite, dressing area & bathroom.

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WYE £325,000
Two bedroom detached bungalow in enviable position near to village centre. Rear garden, lounge, kitchen, cloakroom & family bathroom. Period outbuilding in garden. Garage.

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BROOK OIEO £325,000
Bungalow, porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom. To the first floor, two further bedrooms and bathroom.

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WILLESBOROUGH OIEO £299,995
No chain period detached house. Study, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, downstairs WC, basement room, four bedrooms, master with en suite, family bathroom.

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BETHERSDEN £219,995
Three bedroom semi detached house. Three receptions, sought after village location, no onward chain, driveway parking.

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SOUTH ASHFORD OIEO £210,000
Detached bungalow, 3rd bedroom / dining room, rear & side gardens, cul de sac location.

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ASHFORD £210,000
Four bedroom Victorian property. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, shower room and on second floor, bedroom four. Rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

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WILLESBOROUGH LEES £205,000
Three bedroom detached house in non-estate setting. Extensively modernised and within easy access to Ashford and J10. Lounge, modern kitchen, GF WC, bathroom, garage.

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CHARING £199,995
"No Chain" Three bedroom semi detached house on large plot. Lounge & dining room, kitchen, utility, front, rear and side gardens, carport and driveway parking.

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WILLESBOROUGH £185,000
Three bedroom semi detached house. Two reception rooms, cloakroom, conservatory, kitchen, family bathroom, 100ft rear garden.

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SINGLETON OIEO £180,000
Three bedroom detached house. Ground floor cloakroom, two reception rooms, kitchen, family bathroom. 55ft rear garden, off road parking for 2/3 cars.

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GODINTON PARK £179,995
NO CHAIN three bedroom end of terrace house. Porch, lounge, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, family bathroom. Not-overlooked rear garden, off road allocated parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WILLESBOROUGH £172,000
Three bedroom semi detached house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, shower room, rear enclosed garden, off street parking.

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WILLESBOROUGH OIEO £160,000
1920's style three bedroom with through lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, downstairs bathroom and lean to, garage, rear mature garden, central heating and double glazing.

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WILLESBOROUGH £139,950
"NO CHAIN" Three bedroom period end of terrace property with loft room. Lounge/diner, kitchen, , downstairs bathroom, and 150' rear garden.

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SOUTH ASHFORD £138,000
Three bedroom end of terrace house. Two reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, garden, no onward chain.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



SOUTH ASHFORD £135,000
Three bedroom semi detached house. Two reception rooms, bathroom, kitchen/breakfast room, garage & driveway. Planning permission for two storey extension.

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SOUTH ASHFORD £130,000
Three bedroom end of terrace house. Two reception rooms, utility room, downstairs WC, bathroom and enclosed rear garden.

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KENNINGTON £125,000
Three bedroom end of terrace house. Lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom. Gas fired central heating, double glazing.

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SOUTH ASHFORD £103,950
Three bedroom end of terrace house with no onward chain. Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, rear garden approx 40ft.

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SINGLETON FROM £67,500
Two bedroom end of terrace house. Downstairs cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garden to rear, two allocated parking spaces.

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EAR7974 02/2009

Talk to the agent you can trust

Green shoots of recovery appear in the market

Thinking of selling? Don't delay - the market is coming back to life. In February, new buyer registrations rose by 17 percent and agreed sales by 36 percent*. And, importantly, first time buyers returned with a vengeance with more than double** looking to buy in the first two weeks of January. It's good news for the market and great news if you are thinking of selling. **Act now.**

*Source: "Hometrack Mar 09." **National Association of Estate Agents Mar 09.



Contact us for more details.

SEVINGTON

£249,95



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0845 370 9710

Your Move are delighted to act as sole agents for this detached house in Sevington, Ashford. The property accommodation comprises four bedrooms, three reception rooms including living room, dining room and conservatory, a fitted kitchen and utility room, en-suite to master bedroom and family bathroom/wc. Additionally the property boasts double garage, cloakroom/wc and a corner plot rear garden. Viewings are highly recommended to appreciate the accommodation on offer.



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ASHFORD £104,950



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• Two Bedrooms • Courtyard Garden • Ideal For Investors/First Time Buyers

ASHFORD £174,995



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• Four Bedrooms • Garage & Driveway • Popular Cul-de-sac Location

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• Mid Terraced • Three Bedrooms • Driveway • Landscaped Rear Garden

KENNINGTON £195,000



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HOTHFIELD £175,000



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ASHFORD £127,500



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WOODCHURCH £235,000



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• Semi Detached House • 4 Bedrooms • Off Street Parking For Multiple Vehicles

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How should I position my property in this market?
How do I choose the right estate agent?
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Day Two - The Hilton Brighton Metropole - Wednesday, 29th July - 11am.

Day Three - The Rose Bowl, Southampton - Thursday, 30th July - 11am.



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First Floor Flat with Garden
Guide: £90,000 Plus



SANDWICH
Commercial Investment
Guide: £90-100,000



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House & Land with Equestrian Facilities
Guide: £650-680,000



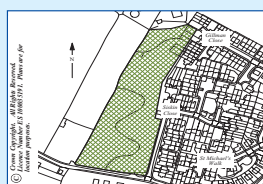
CANTERBURY
Fire Damaged Two-Bed House
Guide: £80-85,000



MARGATE
Charming Period Cottage
Guide: £80-90,000



HYTHE
High Street Commercial Premises
Guide: £200-210,000



HAWKINGE
Outstanding Development Site
Guide: £900,000-£1 Million



WALMER
Two Bedroom Flat for Improvement
Guide: £65-75,000



FARTHINGLOE
Development Site for Pair of Semis
Guide: £70-80,000



WILLESBOROUGH
Two Flats for Investment
Guide: £90-95,000



MARGATE
Residential Re-Development Site
Guide: £65-70,000



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RAMSGATE
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Guide: £120-130,000



MARGATE
Three Bedroom House for Improvement
Guide: £70-80,000



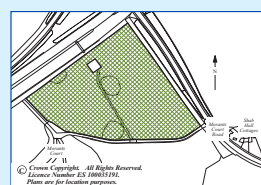
RAINHAM
Bungalow for Modernisation
Guide: £110-120,000



SHORNE
Former Church with Potential
Guide: £100-110,000



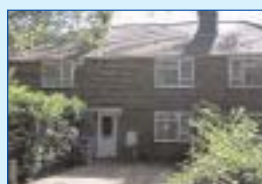
CRAYFORD
Former Caretaker's House
Guide: £180-190,000



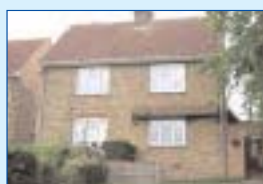
SEVENOAKS
8.2 Acres of Grazing Land
Guide: £50-60,000



MAIDSTONE
House for Refurb. near town centre.
Guide: £95-105,000



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Guide: £85-90,000



OSPRINGE
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Guide: £110-115,000



CRAYFORD
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Guide: £215-225,000



ALLINGTON
Three Bed Semi for Improvement
Guide: £150-160,000



CHATHAM
Mid Terrace House for Improvement
Guide: £45-55,000



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA
Land with Potential
Guide: £20-30,000



KEMSLEY
Bay fronted House for Improvement
Guide: £50-60,000



CHATHAM
18 Garages with Development Potential
Guide: £70-75,000



HARTLEY
Semi in good location
Guide: £180-200,000



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ASHFORD



£134,995

Spacious three bedroom ground floor flat near to town centre. Call office for more information.

ASHFORD



£149,995

Spacious four bedroom first floor flat near to town centre. Call office for more information.

CHARTFIELDS



£149,995

Two bedroom house. Garage to front, side and rear garden, lounge, kitchen, WC, bathroom.

KINGSNORTH



£164,995

Entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge/diner and conservatory, three bedrooms and bathroom.

KENNINGTON



£165,950

Three bedroom house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, garage and additional land to the rear.

CHARING



£185,000

Family home with converted loft including en suite (awaiting building regs) Lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen.

KENNINGTON



£189,995

Lounge/diner, dining room, utility room, shower room, kitchen, 4 double bedrooms, 1 single bedroom & bathroom.

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£244,995

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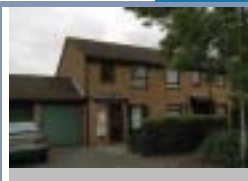
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MOTORS NEWS



Greener plant grows greener Prius hybrid

TOYOTA launches an all-new, greener and more futuristic Prius on August 1 produced by a 'green' factory.

The petrol-electric hybrid is built in Japan at one of five Toyota global Eco-Factories designed to minimise environmental impact through energy saving, waste management and recycling.

Just as the new Prius (from £18,370) can use solar energy to cool its cabin when parked, half of the Tsutsumi plant's electricity comes from solar panels, while sunlight ducts boost interior lighting.



...and BMW launches greenest ever 3-Series

BMW has announced its most fuel-efficient and cleanest BMW 3-Series ever, attracting just £35/year road tax.

The new BMW 316d ES Saloon – on sale in September from £23,330 – features a 116bhp 1,995cc four-cylinder diesel offering 0-62mph of 10.9 seconds and an official 62.8mpg on the combined cycle with CO2 emissions of just 118g/km, helped by a six-speed manual gearbox and the green technologies of BMW's EfficientDynamics package including Stop-Start and energy recovery from braking.



Hyundai ships come in

AMBITIOUS Korean brand Hyundai will upset the motor industry establishment when June UK registration figures are announced.

It has embraced the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme enthusiastically, promoting the i10 city car in particular – it sells from £4,995 through Scrappage.

Hyundai has sold 11,500 cars under the scheme and started a major operation in which four car ships will unload 5,100 cars in four weeks.

The first has just landed 1,100 i10s and this model is tipped to storm the UK top 10 seller list for June.



CHANGE OF TACT: Volkswagen is now putting its weight behind 'eco' petrol engines, using the twin forces of direct injection plus turbocharging which made diesel so popular

VW has change of heart with their 'eco' engines

HAVING done much to push diesel power, Volkswagen is now putting weight behind a return to petrol.

And it is using twin forces behind the diesel boom – direct injection of fuel plus turbocharging. The latter is nothing new, of course, but VW is now using it to boost small and relatively puny engines when needed, without harming overall fuel consumption and emissions.

It is also the perfect partner to VW's new generation direct injection technology, which will surely revolutionise the petrol engine in the same way that common rail direct injection transformed the diesel.

'DI' boosts compression, efficiency and pulling power, again without damaging the green credentials of the engine, while giving our VW Golf SE 1.4 TSI five-door (£16,520) test car all the sportiness most owners will ever desire.

With 120bhp on tap, it seemed to skip along and bowl around corners. The diesel equivalents output feels just as quick in the straight ahead, but the heavier engine shows up on the bends and undoubtedly wears tyres and front end bits more significantly.

This 'eco' petrol version can also average well

ROAD TEST VW GOLF

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

over 40mpg and requires just £125/year in road tax – not bad when it costs considerably less than equivalent diesels.

The latest Golf carries over the excellent chassis from the previous model, which has allowed VW to apportion more interior budget this time, shown in high quality, improved seating, excellent yet lightweight sound insulation and superb ergonomics. The cabin also has far more space, without a significant increase in size.

VW offers its new Adaptive Chassis Control (ACC) system too, allowing three modes for suspension, steering and throttle response.

It is an impressive piece of tech and 'Sport' mode combines with the lively engine to deliver a cut-price GTI to the hands on the wheel – the downside is that ACC adds £705 to the price of the car.

On the other hand, you can afford this luxury: versions of our pumped up petrol Golf cost a £1,000 less than diesel counterparts and are slightly faster and more nimble.

With some buyers never fully convinced by the pro-diesel argument, the arrival of modern and greener petrol alternatives could re-ignite the whole petrol v diesel argument.



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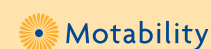
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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 132g/km.

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- 2004 04 SAAB 9-3 1.9Tid Linear**, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 47,000 miles, Metallic Steel Grey, ABS, Air con, Alarm, Alloys, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Full Service History, Drivers airbag, Full Electric pack, Immobiliser, Park distance control, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Passenger airbag, Radio/CD, Remote central locking, Service indicator, Side airbags, Solid Paint, Traction control.....**£8,000**
- 2005 55 SAAB 9-5 2.2 Tid Vector**, 5 Doors, Automatic, Estate, Diesel, 50,000 miles, Metallic Smoke Beige, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Side airbags, Full Electric Pack, Audio remote control, ABS, Roof rails, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Partial leather seat trim, Trip computer, Alarm, PAS.....**£7,995**
- 2002 52 SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero**, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 63,260 miles, Steel Grey, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Full electric pack, Heated seats, Park distance control, Remote locking, Side airbags, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Manual Transmission, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork.....**£5,495**
- 2001 Y SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero**, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 140,000 miles, Metallic Silver, ABS, Passenger airbag, Roof rails, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Full Electric Pack, Front fog lights, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Alarm, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS.....**£2,500**
- 1995 N SAAB 900 2.0i S**, 5 Doors, Automatic, Hatchback, Petrol, 136,188 miles, Metallic Red, ABS, Adjustable seats, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Child locks, Computer, Driver airbag, Full Electric Pack, Metallic paintwork, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Radio.....**£995**

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FORD

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 110 5dr [DPF], metallic tonic, privacy glass, abs, adjustable seats, air con, alloys, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors/windows, foglights, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, radio/cd, spoiler, insurance group: 7, blue, 41411 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, TDCi New Style Van, panel van, full dealer facilities, hp-leasing, warranty, 2 seater, white, 8 miles, £9999, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5dr [Climate], air con, alloys, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, insurance group: 5, blue, 10566 miles, £9490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style [70] 3dr [Climate], IsoTwin, air con, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, insurance group: 3, blue, 24101 miles, £5990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air con, alloys, central locking, climate control, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, radio/cd, black, 9800 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van Tdi 85ps ***NEW SHAPE**, ej56dhd, 85 ps, panel van, cd player, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, ply lined, swb, warranty, 3 seater, white, 27000 miles, £7990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A150, 5DR Classic SE, blue, 3500 miles, £14997, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A150, 3 DOOR Classic SE, 2008, polar silver metallic, 4000 miles, £12460, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 3 DOOR Classic SE, 2008, polar silver metallic, 7625 miles, £10380, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, MAV Sport, 2008, cosmos black metallic, 10067 miles, £17995, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, Sport, 2009, lotus blue metallic, 3500 miles, £19997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

B200 CDI, MAV Sport, 2008, horizon blue metallic, 3312 miles, £17980, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 12755 miles, £20979, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2009, cubanite silver metallic, 2636 miles, £22700, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, cubanite silver metallic, 22949 miles, £13994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, obsidian black metallic, 18000 miles, £20997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, tenorite grey metallic, 11770 miles, £21580, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C200 CDI, Elegance COMAND, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 15173 miles, £25998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

CLS320 CDI, 2007, iridium silver metallic, 31451 miles, £23461, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C350, Elegance, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 7000 miles, £27940, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

CLASSIC, SE CPE AUTO SE, 2006, iridium silver metallic, 15000 miles, £11997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

CLC200 CDI, 2009, cubanite silver metallic, 6000 miles, £19994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

CLC220 CDI, 2008, fire opal, 5200 miles, £21498, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

CLC220 CDI, 2008, tenorite grey metallic, 4000 miles, £20790, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

CLC220 CDI, 2009, calcite white, 6000 miles, £22497, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

CLC220 CDI, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 1966 miles, £21498, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

CLK200 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, obsidian black metallic, 19738 miles, £19498, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

CLK200 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, cubanite silver metallic, 13200 miles, £26994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

EE220 CDI, Avantgarde Auto Avantgarde, 2006, iridium silver metallic, 35764 miles, £17980, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2007, iridium silver metallic, 16061 miles, £18298, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

ML320 CDI, Sport, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 14188 miles, £29980, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

R320 CDI, LWB Sport, 2007, obsidian black metallic, 20418 miles, £23894, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

S320 CDI, L, 2006, tansanite blue metallic, 54200 miles, £31785, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

SLK200 KOMPRESSOR, 2006, iridium silver metallic, 20443 miles, £19190, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

SLK280, ROADSTER, 2009, obsidian black metallic, 3000 miles, £34495, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

CARISMA, 1.6 Elegance 5dr, gl04rvm, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air con, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group: 8, silver, 10000 miles, £3995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.1 C21 3dr, iv07ssz, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group: 3, was, black, 25000 miles, £4495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab Td Trojan 4WD 1138hp, gk07vzc, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, power assisted steering, insurance group: 14, grey, 36500 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr CVT, ix08zrf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group: 8, saving, blue, 6800 miles, £12795, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 DI-DC Warrior 5dr, ix57xsl, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, and theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, dvd, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, insurance group: 11, silver, 17300 miles, £15895, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.4 16V Dynamique S 3dr Air Conditioning, gk55uca, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, air conditioning, insurance group: 4, black, 39400 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

SWIFT, 1.5 GLX 5dr, gf06mrx, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group: 6, was, grey, 17000 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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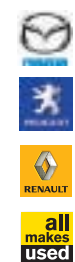
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We are looking for Qualified Social Workers preferably with Fostering experience, a friendly disposition and very good communication skills, to join our caring and professional team.

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• To apply, send a CV and covering letter to: Dave Hobday, Head of Subbing or email dave.hobday@kosmedia.co.uk.



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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

HR Adviser

Salary - £29,559-£36,630

MidKent College has been providing 'top quality' education and training in Kent for almost 100 years. As one of Kent's largest further and higher education Colleges it is important that we also provide 'top quality' support for our managers and staff in this innovative and exciting environment.

We are expanding our HR team to include professional, CIPD qualified HR Advisers, who will strengthen our provision of advice and guidance for managers and staff. We are looking to appoint experienced professionals who can support organisational change processes and have good knowledge of employment law, combined with strong generalist experience and knowledge in key areas of HR delivery. This will include employee relations, performance management, recruitment, workforce planning and organisational development.

Our strong customer service focus requires excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to engage with people at all levels of the organisation, working to drive, develop and implement new HR policies and initiatives that support the delivery of 'top quality' education and training.

For an application pack please contact Caroline Stark on 01634 884511 or e mail caroline.stark@midkent.ac.uk

Closing date: Mid-day July 15th 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



MidKent College

Earn while you learn!

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding apprentices in the following areas:

Customer Service

Administration

Plumbing

Carpentry/Joinery

Hairdressing

Painting and Decorating

Training allowance: £6,171

Successful candidates will work towards the apprentice framework including a relevant NVQ Level within their chosen subject. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from learning whilst working in a stimulating environment. All apprentice roles are to start 1 September 2009. Interviews are scheduled to take place the week beginning 20 July 2009.

Closing date: 20 July 2009

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ACCOUNTS PERSON REQUIRED
 Busy, friendly office requires an experienced Purchase Ledger Clerk. Sage Line 50 essential. Customer credit control/ reconciliation of supplier accounts. Also flexible approach to assist with general office procedures. Salary: TBA. Permanent position. Rural location - own transport essential
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Foster carers wanted

The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption, seeks dedicated and highly motivated foster carers. Comprehensive training and support given, plus excellent rates of pay.
Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield on 01303 815648 or email fosters@caldecottfoundation.co.uk



The Caldecott Foundation, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SP.



FOXWOOD SCHOOL
SEABROOK ROAD
HYTHE KENT CT21 5QJ
Tel: 01303 261155

School Cook Vacancy

We are looking for someone that wants to make a difference in planning personalised meals for children with learning difficulties. You must be able to plan your time efficiently in order to meet service times and agreed food quality standards including menu planning, ordering, stock control, budget planning and general paperwork.

27.50 hours per week, term time only (8 am – 1:30pm Monday to Friday) £8.35–£8.70 per hour Kent Scheme 4, to start in September 09

Health & Safety & Health Hygiene certificate essential.

Please apply including an up to date copy of your CV and contact details to:

The School Administrator – Sue.Kewer@foxwood.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for applications **Friday 3rd July 2009.**



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Catering and Hospitality

Ref: P0544

Salary: £30,204 - £33,935 per annum

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to provide support to the Head of School on all Staffing, Student, Curriculum and Quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning, have experience of the industry and have good negotiating/communication skills. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Biology

Ref: P0102

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to teach on and participate in the development of a range of Biology courses on Access, A levels and BTEC. The successful candidate will hold a relevant degree in Biology and possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are looking for an individual with the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen field.

Lecturer in Sport

Ref: P0102

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Health Care

Ref: P0650

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of a range of Health Care programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Performing Arts

Ref: P0651

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for an experienced, creative and dynamic individual to work as a course tutor within the Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be involved with the development of the department, driving forward new ideas and must be able to demonstrate innovative ways of working and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Departmental Administrator

Ref: P0245

Salary: £12,795 £16,059 per annum/pro rata

Full time – Medway Campus

Part Time – Maidstone Campus

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Closing date: Wednesday 8 July 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Swale Carers Centre

PROMOTING, SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING CARERS OF ALL AGES

Suite 9, Bank House
 Broadway, SHEERNESS
 Kent ME12 1TW
 T 01795 583440
www.swalecarers.org.uk

YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT OFFICER(S) - MATERNITY COVER(S)

Due to forthcoming Maternity Cover(s), Swale Carers Centre is looking to appoint 1 x full time and 1 x part time Young Carers Support Officers, with effect August 2009 – May 2010. There is likely to be the potential for 'Job Share' opportunities following this period, details to be agreed.

Salary: £18,250 pro-rata

Hours: Full-time 37 hours per week / Part-time 10 hours per week – to include evening and occasional weekend working to suit the needs of the service

Entitlements: Essential Car Users Allowance, Pension Contribution, 25 days Annual Leave (pro-rata)

For further information and an information pack, please contact Sandie Hornby our Chief Operations Officer on 01795 583440 or sandie.hornby@swalecarers.org.uk

Completed application forms to be received not later than 10am 10th July, interviews will be held 17th July at Swale Carers Centre.



Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science and Language College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
 Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website: www.gsgs.org.uk
 email: enquiries@gsgs.org.uk



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

37 hours per week (ie full-time) but Term Time and Development Days Only (i.e. 39 weeks per year plus paid holiday entitlement)
Salary at KCS Band 3, initially Point 7
Pro rata £11,897 (full time £14,099)

A flexible person is required as soon as possible to work as an administrative assistant within a busy school office. The candidate will be required to carry out a range of administrative tasks, but will mainly focus on tasks linked to the SIMS IT system and typing. The ability to work independently with initiative and discretion, but within the context of a team, is essential. Experience of working in an administrative capacity is essential.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of

Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than **2nd July 2009.**

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

A major resource centre specialising in the care and support of adults with disabilities



Registered Nurse

Take the opportunity to nurse, where you are expected and resourced to provide:

- A person centred approach to independence, well-being and choice
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- Nurses and therapists lead a complex service for people with physical disabilities, long term neurological and similar conditions
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Fully Flexible 37.5 hours per week

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Call 01227 373292 for an informal chat with John Cotterill, Director of Care or alternatively email: recruitment@strodepark.org.uk for an application pack.

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Great opportunity to work when you want!

We offer a variety of shifts to suit your needs.

Rates of pay from £6.17 per hour to £6.83 per hour

Interested! Then visit our website www.strodepark.org.uk for more details or alternatively email: Sandra.Wiltshire@strodepark.org.uk

Closing date for completed applications is 13th July 2009

The above post are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Disclosure being obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau.



Strode Park Foundation, Strode Park House, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NE
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Effective from June 2008

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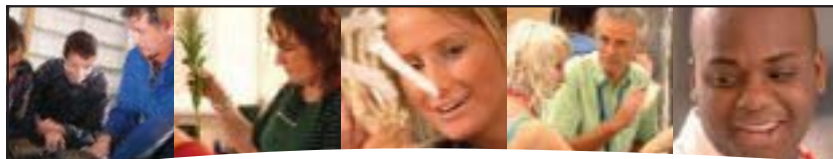


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S/NVQ

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ref: HKQ26Q

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Application for Planning Permission

Town and Country Planning
(General Permitted Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Article 6

Proposed Development at
Old Ashford Hospital, King's Avenue, TN23 1LU

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NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT

For planning permission to:
Demolition of all existing structures, erection of new health centre with new access and associated parking and landscaping (Full) and residential development (Outline with all matters reserved)

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being Submitted:
Ashford Borough Council

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the Council within 21 days of the date of this notice at Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL. Dated 25/06/09.

Statement of owners' rights:
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CRICKET

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent Cricket League Division One

Hythe 1st XI v Ashford Town 1st XI

AN OUTSTANDING spell from Jago Pearson helped give Hythe only their second victory of the season as they beat Ashford Town by five wickets at the Grove.

Pearson took 7 for 46 as Ashford were bowled out cheaply, setting up a precious victory which took Hythe out of the bottom two.

The hosts opted to field first after winning the toss and the decision reaped dividends as Ben Dwyer dismissed Liam Tegg, Jason Boulter and James Watson to leave Ashford on 23 for 3.

Shannon Fattore steadied the innings with a superb 87, sharing a substantial partnership with Stuart Paine to get Ashford back in the game. But Fattore's dismissal signalled the beginning of the end as the middle order and tail had no answer to Pearson's bowling.

With less than 200 to chase for victory, Hythe took as few risks as possible. Christopher Slee (31) and Richard Perkins (14) got them away to a steady start before a third wicket stand of 90 between Sam Butler (54) and Leon Morgan (47).

Jon Smith's 37 was the final nail in Ashford's coffin and despite being bowled by James Watson, it only prolonged the inevitable as Hythe reached their target in the 51st over.

Hythe steady ship for second win of season



GREAT SAVE: Ashford's wicketkeeper shows off his reflexes in Saturday's defeat to Hythe, whose five-wicket victory moved them out of the bottom two

SCOREBOARD

Ashford Town

	Runs
Liam Tegg b Dwyer	2
Jason Boulter b Dwyer	9
Shannon Fattore st Butler b Pearson	87
James Watson ct Butler b Dwyer	0
Stuart Paine ct Patching b Pearson	22
Gary Sutton ct Slee b Pearson	8
Craig Buckham b Pearson	19
Andrew Maurice lbw b Pearson	25
Gavin Hope ct Patching b Pearson	8
James Rand lbw b Pearson	0
Mohsin Raza not out	5
Extras (5b 1lb 3w 2nb)	11
Total (all out, 44 overs)	196

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Ben Dwyer	9	0	60	3	
Daniel Patching	10	0	35	0	
Patrick Owen	5	1	30	0	
Jago Pearson	12	1	46	7	
Hamish Morrison	8	2	19	0	

Hythe

	Runs
Christopher Slee b Rand	31
Richard Perkins lbw b Buckham	14
Sam Butler ct Sutton b Raza	54
Leon Morgan ct Buckham b Buckham	47
Jon Smith b Watson	37
Daniel Patching not out	9
Tim Pichowski not out	0
Jago Pearson did not bat	
Patrick Owen did not bat	
Ben Dwyer did not bat	
Hamish Morrison did not bat	
Extras (2b 1lb 2nb)	5
Total (5 wickets, 51 overs)	197

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Mohsin Raza	11	4	32	1	
Liam Tegg	15	2	49	0	
James Rand	5	2	23	1	
Andrew Maurice	5	2	19	0	
Craig Buckham	13	1	64	2	
James Watson	2	1	6	1	

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Tenterden 1st XI v Lordswood 1st XI

TENTERDEN became the latest Division One side to feel the power of champions elect Lordswood as they crashed to a seven wicket defeat on Saturday.

The hosts gave themselves little chance for an upset as they suffered a monumental batting collapse, losing seven wickets for just 16 runs.

Their total of 77 was never likely to cause the Lords many problems and they wrapped up victory in the 20th over.

Tenterden

	Runs
Daniel McDonald	16
Andrew Crawford	12
Nick Daynes	0
Paul Brann	2
Timir Chanda	0
Scott Freeman	5
Tim Curteis	4
Nick Hall	11
Richard Williams	11
Simon Bessant	0
Mark Baker	8
Extras (1b 7lb)	8
Total (all out, 23 overs)	77

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
John Williams	6	3	20	4	
James Iles	7	2	26	2	
Richard Cross	6	1	12	4	
Matt Iles	4	1	11	0	

Lordswood

	Runs
Alan Pattenden	24
Lyndon Lockhart	16
Peter Stock	0
Chris Thompson	17
Jeremy Greaves	4
James Iles	0
Matt Iles	0
Efren Cruz	0
Darren Scott	0
John Williams	0
Richard Cross	0
Extras (5b 3lb 6w 3nb)	17
Total (3 wickets, 19.2 overs)	78

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Timir Chanda	9	1	25	1	
Nick Hall	3	0	15	0	
Mark Baker	5	1	16	1	
Tim Curteis	1.2	0	10	0	
Simon Bessant	1	0	4	1	

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Pembury 1st XI v Wye 1st XI

A LACK of runs cost Wye as they slipped to third from bottom with a seven wicket defeat to Pembury.

Batting first after winning the toss, Wye struggled as both openers were dismissed cheaply in quick succession. Giles Starley (45) was the only batsman to make a significant contribution as the visitors stuttered to 150.

Pembury looked far more at ease in their innings and raced to their victory target with 14 overs and seven wickets to spare.

Wye

	Runs
Jordan Reed-Ashton	7
Daniel Noden	18
David Fletcher	3
Raj Mahadevaiah	5
Giles Starley	45
Nick Eve	8
Ben Houston	1
Wayne Edlin	8
Edward Hoyle	26
Keith Secrett	8
Matt Barlow	4
Extras (1lb 2w 1nb)	4
Total (9 wickets, 46 overs)	150

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Neil Hemstall	12	2	44	3	
Richard Bidder	11	1	36	4	
Dinesh Patel	11	4	30	2	
James Moysey	6	2	14	0	
Paul Kelly	6	1	25	0	

Pembury

	Runs
Robert Eaton	48
Gary Purdy	7
Alan Moxon	39
Matthew Rice-Tucker	10
Neil Hemstall	38
Paul Kelly	0
Mark Parsons	0
Richard Bidder	0
James Moysey	0
Dinesh Patel	0
Ryan Walmsley	0
Extras (5b 4lb 2w 1nb)	12
Total (3 wickets, 32 overs)	154

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Edward Hoyle	7	3	15	1	
Jordan Reed-Ashton	7	1	39	0	
Raj Mahadevaiah	3	0	11	0	
Wayne Edlin	4	0	15	0	
Keith Secrett	6	0	33	1	
David Fletcher	1	0	10	0	
Daniel Noden	4	0	22	1	

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Bexleyheath 1st XI v Ashford Town 3rd XI

MORE than half the cricket season still remains but Ashford Town 3rds look destined for relegation after their losing streak was extended to eight games on Saturday.

With nine players they were always likely to struggle and only Luke Laws (35) and Darren Bailey (26) were able to occupy the crease for any length of time.

Ashford's bowlers had little chance of defending 104 and so it proved as Bexleyheath got home with half their overs to spare in an eight-wicket victory.

Ashford Town

	Runs
Luke Laws	35
Joseph Jolley	4
Dean Clark	3
Arham Karim	3
Darren Bailey	26
Steve Tanner	3
Thomas Bailey	1
Luca Sardo	12
Darren Cooper	11
Extras (1b 1lb 4w)	6
Total (all out, 34.1 overs)	104

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
David Meeking	6	1	30	1	
Jack Woods	5.1	1	15	2	
Phillip Bone	10	4	26	3	
Tom Beaumont	11	2	23	2	
Archie Woodgate	2	0	8	0	

Bexleyheath

	Runs
Phil Wiseman	24
Pat Heath	56
Chris Shears	0
Ravi Patel	4
Raquiib Bosunia	0
Archie Woodgate	0
Jake Kendall	0
Jack Woods	0
Tom Beaumont	0
David Meeking	0
Phillip Bone	0
Extras (13b 1lb 1w 8nb)	23
Total (2 wickets, 25 overs)	107

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Darren Cooper	13	8	31	0	
Thomas Bailey	4	0	18	0	
Luca Sardo	3	1	7	0	
Arham Karim	2	0	15	0	
Steve Tanner	2	0	18	0	
Darren Bailey	1	0	4	1	

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1 E

St Lawrence & Highland Court 3rd XI v Kennington 1st XI

ROBERT Iles produced a superb all-round performance as Kennington beat St Lawrence 3rds by 113 runs on Saturday.

Iles top scored with 72 from just 73 balls in Kennington's innings as the visitors posted a competitive 220 for 9 from their 46 overs.

St Lawrence were already in trouble at 78 for 5 when Iles began a productive spell, taking 4 for 14 to remove the hosts' tail as they were bowled out for just 107.

Kennington

	Runs
Chris Watts	10
Oliver Finch	66
Grant Langfield	7
Robert Iles	72
Chris Drakeley	30
Jeremy Grove	4
Alan Hart	0
David Finch	1
Timothy Branchett	0
John Cunningham	2
Peter Grant	4
Extras (7b 3lb 13w 1nb)	24
Total (9 wickets, 46 overs)	220

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Phil Kelly	8	2	29	1	
James Rodway	4	0	29	0	
Guy Hilton	5	0	21	1	
Milo King	3	0	29	0	
Jack Baldson	6	0	32	0	
Francis Green	12	1	29	2	
Geoffrey Baldock	8	0	41	2	

St Lawrence & Highland Court

	Runs
Andrew Davies	5
James Rodway	21
Paul Smith	5
Jack Baldson	16
Paul Rodway	15
Francis Green	13
Milo King	0
Geoffrey Baldock	0
Christopher Rodway	0
Phil Kelly	18
Guy Hilton	3
Extras (2b 1lb 8w)	11
Total (all out, 37.4 overs)	107

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Jeremy Grove	12	1	27	1	
David Finch	12	4	41	2	
Chris Watts	7	4	13	2	
Robert Iles	6.4	1	14	4	

Camier impresses in World Superbike bow

Picture NICK DUNCAN



IMPRESSIVE: Leon Camier gave the home crowd something to cheer

LEON Camier turned heads on his wild card debut in the World Superbike Championship by picking up two points finishes at Donington Park.

The Ashford rider was eager to show his pace on the Airwaves Yamaha bike and shocked the crowd in free practice by finishing second, just a tenth of a second behind title contender Ben Spies.

A problem in qualifying left Camier disappointed with his grid slot of 17th, but it failed to dampen his weekend.

In the first race the 22-year-old got to grips with the challenge and brought the bike home in 13th.

The second race saw him produce one of his best rides of his career when he battled his way to sixth place after starting 16th on the grid.

He said: "Race one was tough. I struggled with braking, steering and a lack of grip. My start was

MOTORSPORT

horrendous. It was difficult to pass with a lack of grip and brake problems, but I had to take the chance whenever I could.

"I was a lot happier with race two. I still suffered with brake problems, but I just had to ride around them and overtake at every possible opportunity. My start was only slightly better compared to race one, but still pretty terrible. To make my way up to sixth is a big achievement."

After competing alongside the best superbike riders in the world, Camier will return to the British Superbike Championship this weekend at Scotland's Knockhill.

With a 58-point lead in the series, he will be looking to maintain his advantage with the championship reaching the halfway point.

FOOTBALL



PROGRESS: Ashford Town boss Steve Lovell

New budget kicks off signings for Nuts and Bolts

EIGHT members of last season's squad will definitely be playing for Ashford Town this coming campaign, according to manager Steve Lovell.

After financial difficulties triggered a summer of uncertainty, Town boss Lovell can now look forward to next season after being handed a fresh budget, following a successful meeting with the club's owners Don Crosbie and Tony Betteridge.

Since the meeting, Lovell has been in talks with the players from last season and revealed Paul Jones, Danny Lye, Ryan Briggs, Tony Browne, Mitchell Sherwood, Mark Lovell, Darren Ibrahim and John Ralph, will all be playing for the Nuts and Bolts next season.

He told Yourashford: "Myself and my assistant, Hugo Langton, are delighted to be able to move on and start working towards next year. We are looking forward to the challenge of building a new squad. I am not a person who likes talking about budgets, but I have worked to a similar one and got results.

"I have spoken to the majority of the players and so far only two have definitely told me they will not be playing which are Craig Wilkins who has joined Met Police and Jimmy Bottle. I am still waiting to hear back from some of the squad."

Lovell is happy with the response he has received from the majority of his side but admitted he is starting to look around for potential new signings.

He added: "At the moment I think I need to bring in perhaps two or three players. I will be giving other players in the squad, who didn't feature as much last season, a chance to prove themselves again."

The Ashford boss admitted he is expecting to hear from Seb Barton and Jimmy Elford soon, while goalkeeper Josh Willis could be on his way out after deciding to join Kingstonian for pre-season training.



Picture ADY KERRY

SETBACK: Lisa Dobriskey is embroiled in a race against time to be fit in time for the World Trials to keep her World Athletics Championship hopes alive

Injury threatens Lisa's World title chances

ATHLETICS

■ BY TOM HOWARD

LESS than a year after narrowly missing out on an Olympic medal, Lisa Dobriskey is in a frantic fitness battle which threatens to rule her out of this summer's World Athletics Championships.

The Ashford-born 1500 metre runner picked up the stress injury to her leg a month ago, after returning from a warm weather training camp in South Africa in April. With Team GB's World Trials at Birmingham just two weeks

away, Dobriskey has a fight on her hands to prove herself and qualify for the championships in Berlin later this summer.

With the injury coming so close to the World Trials, the 25-year-old, 2006 Commonwealth champion rates her chances of qualifying for the championships as only 50/50.

She told Yourashford: "It is going to be a race against time, so I have been training hard and doing work on treadmills. I am back running now, but it is touch and go whether I will make the trials and the World Championships.

"I should be fit in time for the trials, but the standard is so high this year so I don't know if I will qualify. I will keep working hard I have not given up and thrown in the towel yet."

The injury is a body blow for Dobriskey, who emerged as a world class athlete last year. Knocking several seconds off her personal best

just before the Beijing Olympics, she finished fourth in the final, missing out on a medal by a fraction of a second.

Following on from the disappointment, Dobriskey had been targeting a medal at the World Championships to make amends for Beijing – making her situation all the more soul destroying.

She said: "It's really hard to take as the injury has come at the worst possible time. I am devastated that I might miss the World Championships, as I had really high hopes going into it. It is the main point of the season for me."

As she battles against the clock to get in peak form ahead of the World Trials, Dobriskey has received help from former marathon world champion Paula Radcliffe.

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